STARS STRIPES.

Plenty of fight left in Ja Rule Page 18



U.S. diplomat killed outside Baghdad's **Green Zone**

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Opponents awestruck by Mickelson's 59

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FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 26, 2004

'War doesn't discriminate. Everybody gets hurt.'

A battle to save Fallujah wounded

BY RON JENSEN Stars and Stripes

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq would it be like? here was a drumbeat. A battle was looming.

failing. Coalition troops were massing. Would the offensive kick off? If so, when? What

The staff at the Air Force Theater Hospital watched Negotiations with the this. They listened to this. insurgents in Falluiah were They waited.

"Suddenly," said Dr. (Col.) field, filling the operating Ted Parsons, deputy commander of the hospital, "the helicopters started dropping out of the sky."

The helicopters would come for days, day and night, ferrying wounded from the battlerooms and the beds of the hospital with human carnage -American soldiers and Marines, Iraqi National Guard and police, enemy combatants and civilians.

SEE HOSPITAL ON PAGE 5

Bittersweet Thanksgiving

Troops in Iraq missing home, but not on an empty stomach

Page 4



Above: Three soldiers from the 369th Transportation Company, from left, 1st Sgt. David Dibble Spc. David Kingsland and Staff Sgt. Ken Colson, toast the holiday Thursday at a dining facility at Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Iraq. Thanksgiving dinner was served in dining facilities across Iraq. Right: Command Sgt. Maj. Ed Whittington of the 172nd Corps Support Group serves up a Thanksgiving eal for a soldier at LSA Anaconda.



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Ne ws Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Martha Stewart appeal: The government urged a federal appeals court in New York to uphold the conviction of Martha Stewart, arguing that "overwhelming evidence" supported the guilty verdict against the celebrity homemaker.



Stewart, serving a five-month sentence at a West Virginia prison, had argued to the 2nd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals that prosecutors improperly suggested at her trial that she was charged with insider trading.

tewart

The appeals court is unlikely to hear oral arguments in the case until early next year or rule on the appeal be-

until early next year and probably will not rule on the appeal before Stewart leaves prison.

Heart attack killed soldier's mom: A woman who collapsed and died hours after viewing the body of her son killed while serving in Iraq suffered a heart attack, Arizona authorities said.

Karen Unruh-Wahrer, 45, had atheroscle-

rotic cardiovascular disease, more commonly known as hardening of the arteries, which led to her Oct. 2 heart attack, said Dr. Bruce Parks, Pima County's chief medical examin-

Unruh-Wahrer was said to be inconsolable after the death of her 25-year-old son, Army Spc. Robert Oliver Unruh, who was killed Sept. 25 by enemy fire near Baghdad.

Imposter sentenced: A man who posed as a gynecologist after setting up an office in a self-storage complex was sentenced to four years in prison after pleading guilty to practicing medicine without a license.

The charges stemmed from an undercover investigation that began after authorities in Dallas saw an ad in a weekly newspaper offering free medical care.

Thomas P. Remo, 50, of Ovilla, wore a scrub shirt and had some medical equipment in the makeshift exam room, a small kitchen in the storage facility office where he worked, authorities said.

FDA scientist faces pressure: Dr. David

J. Graham. the Food and Drug Administration scientist who public-ly criticized the agency's approach to drug safety during a congressional hearing last week, said Wednesday that he was facing pressure to transfer to a different job in the FDA—a move that he said was in retaliation for his remarks.

marks.
Graham was the star
witness at a Nov. 18 Sen-



suppress the results of his investigations.

Hinckley request denied: The man who shot President Reagan may continue taking short, overnight trips away from a mental hospital, but a federal judge says John Hinckley Jr. is not ready for longer visits

U.S. District Judge Paul L. Friedman on Wednesday denied Hinckley's request to spend four nights at a time, every two weeks, visiting his parents at their home in

Williamsburg, Va. Friedman said he first wanted doctors to



U.N. hostages released: Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, right, greets freed Filipino hostage Angelito Nayan at the Malacanang palace in Manila on Thursday. The release this week of Nayan and two other U.N. workers who were kidnapped in Kabul is shrouded in mystery, the freed hostages have made no comment about how they were set free or who snatched them, and Afghan officials insist they did not agree to any concession.

sort out whether Hinckley has unresolved feelings toward a former girlfriend.

Sniper shootings: Sniper mastermind John Allen Muhammad and his teenage accomplice Lee Boyd Malvo will not face charges for a slaying in Washington state months before they went on their rampage in and around the nation's capital, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Prosecutor Jerry Costello said there was lit-

Prosecutor Jerry Costello said there was inttle point in putting on an expensive trial in Tacoma for the February 2002 shooting death of Keenya Cook since the pair already face the death penalty or life in prison in Virginia.

World

World Food Program suspended: The World Food Program has suspended its operations in most of the Sudanese state of North Darfur and relocated its staff to the capital due to renewed clashes between rebels and government forces, the U.N. agency said Thursday.

The move leaves 300,000 people displaced by the fighting without access to WFP food

aid, the agency said in a statement. On Monday, 45 humanitarian aid workers who fled the fighting were rescued by African Union troops.

Israel separation barrier construction: Israel should stop building its West Bank separation barrier if Palestinian militants halt attacks, Israel's president was quoted as saying Thursday, in the most high-profile criticism yet of the contentious project.

The separation barrier and the Gaza with-

The separation parrier and the Gaza withdrawal are part of Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's so-called "unilateral disengagement" from the Palestinians. The barrier would serve as a temporary frontier until a final peace deal is negotiated.

Mark Thatcher's trial postponed: A South African court on Thursday postponed Sir Mark Thatcher's trial for allegedly helping finance a foiled coup attempt in oil-rich Equatorial Guinea until April 8 for further investiga-

Thatcher, the 51-year-old son of former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, was not asked to plead.

Magistrate Awie Kotze granted the delay at the request of prosecutors. He also extended Thatcher's bail conditions, which require that he remain in the Cape Town area and report daily to police. Thatcher, who has lived in South Africa since 1995, was arrested at his suburban Cape Town home on August 25 and charged with violating this country's anti-mercenary laws. He also faces charges in Equatorial Guinea.

Ethiopia, Eritrea border dispute: Prime Minister Meles Zenawi told parliament Thursday that Ethiopia has decided to accept "in principle" a disputed ruling on its border with Eritrea made as part of a peace deal four years ago.

years ago.

Ethiopia had until now refused to respect
the April 2002 ruling by the Eritrea-Ethiopia
Boundary Commission, part of the Permanent Court of Arbitration based in The
Hague, Netherlands.

The government will start dialogue immediately with Eritrea "with a view to implementing the decision of the Eritrea-Ethiopia Boundary Commission in a manner consistent with the promotion of sustainable peace and brotherly ties between the two peoples," Meles said.

Turkey torture troubles: It seemed an obvious case of police brutality: a young man beaten senseless by officers in an argument over littering.

Yet it's the injured party, Kemal Yaradilmis, who has found himself in the dock, facing charges of disobedience, verbal abuse and threatening behavior.

Under intense pressure from the European Union, Turkey has carried out dramatic rights reforms in recent years. But cases like that of Yaradilmis indicate the country has a long way to go before satisfying the prosperous bloc, which Turkey desperately wants to

While incidents of torture, the violation for which Turkey is most notorious, have fallen sharply, reports of police abuse and failure to enforce reformed laws remain common.

Business

Disney security guards: Walt Disney World's security guards overwhelmingly rejected a new three-year labor contract, ignoring a recommendation from their union leaders.

Members of the Security, Police, and Fire Professionals of America Local 603 voted down the agreement 296-26 late Wednesday.

Negotiations are to resume next week.

Stories and photos from wire services

Al-Zargawi lieutenant captured in Mosul

American civilian working with embassy killed outside Green Zone

BY SAMEER N. YACOUB

BAGHDAD — A lieutenant of Iraq's most feared terrorist lead-er Abu Musab al-Zarqawi was captured a few days ago in Mosu, and Iraqi troops searching suspected terrorist hideouts in Fallujah discovered a laboratory with manuals on manufacturing explosives and toxins — including antrax, Iraq's national security ad-

viser said Thursday

Also, the U.S. military said it discovered the "largest weapons cache to date in the city of Fallujah." The weapons — including anti-tank mines and a mobile bomb-making lab — were found inside a mosque used by an insurgent leader. Troops also found documents detailing hostage interrogations, the military said.

The U.S. Embassy said Thursday that an American civilian working with the embassy was skilled during an attack outside the Green Zone. In Washington, U.S. Secretary of State Colin Powell identified the man as James Mollen, a State Department education specialist who served as a consultant to Iraq's minister of education and the minister of higher education.

Spokesman Pete Mitchell said Mollen was traveling in a vehicle outside the protected Green Zone, which houses the U.S. and Iraqi leadership, when he came under runfire Wednesday afternoon.

Five Arab foreign fighters who escaped from Fallujah were arrested near the southern city of Basra, where they were planning to attack coalition bases and police stations, authorities said.

National security adviser Qassem Dawoud identified al-Zarqawi's alleged lieutenant as Abu Saeed, but he gave no further de-

Insurgents rose up this month in Mosul, Iraq's third-largest city, in support of rebels in Fallujah, who were routed by U.S. and Iraqi forces in an offensive that began Nov. 8. U.S. and Iraqi authorities managed to regain control of Mosul after the entire 5,000-member police force disintegrated.

Al-Zarqawi, al-Qaida-linked group has been responsible for numerous car bombings and beheadings of feeign hostages, including three Americans and a Briton, was believed headquartered in Fallujah. But the Jordanian-born extremist managad hose can the sites.

managed to escape the siege.

The United States has offered a \$25 million reward for al-Zarqaw-i's capture — the same amount being offered for Osama bin Laden and his deputy, Ayman al-Zawahri.

In Fallujah, Iraqi forces uncovered a lab in the southwestern district of the city, where pockets of insurgents are still holding out following the assault.

"We also found in the laboratory manuals and instructions spelling out procedures for making explosives," Dawoud said.

Dawoud showed pictures of a shelf containing what he said were various chemicals.

were Various cientinicas.

Earlier, the U.S. military said it had uncovered the largest arms cache yet inside the mosque of an acache yet inside the mosque of an Troops found small arms, artillery shells, heavy machine guns, and anti-tank mines Wednesday, and anti-tank mines Wednesday Sundi resultation of the mosque of the



A firefighter hoses down a burning Iraqi police car after it came under attack from unknown gunmen in western Baghdad on Thursday.

Witnesses said three police officers were wounded in the attack.

U.S. Marine officers say they so far have found enough weapons in Fallujah to refuel a nationwide rebellion.

Elsewhere in the mosque compound, troops also found what may be a mobile bomb-making factory housed in a truck, as well as mortar systems, rocket-propelled grenades, launchers, recoilless rifles and parts of surface-to-air weapons systems, the statement said

The troops also found "documents that detailed insurgent interrogations of recent kidnap victims," the statement said.

U.S. and Iraqi troops continue to sweep the city amid sporadic gun battles with rebel holdouts.

Meanwhile, Basra Police Chief Brig. Mohammed Khazim said the five men were stopped late Wednesday at a checkpoint in Qurnah, about 35 miles north of Basra, and "personal weapons" were found in their four-wheel-drive vebicle.

Defense Minister Hazem Shaalan said earlier this week that about 60 Arab fighters have been arrested during the Fallujah

Two of the captured fighters were identified as being from Saudi Arabia, two from Tunisia and one from Libya.

Meanwhile, an explosion hit a domestic pipeline Thursday that

runs from northern Kirkuk to the Beiji refinery, oil officials said. Saboteurs also attacked two oil wells near the Himreen Mountains, 75 miles south of Kirkuk, but the oil continued flowing, the

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Wednesday, at least 1,230 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 961 died as a result of hostile action, the Defense Department said.

The figures include three military civilians.

The British military has reported 74 deaths; Iayl, 19, Poland, 13; Spain, 11; Ukraine, nine; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary and Latvia have reported one death each. Since May 1, 2003, when

President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 1,092 U.S. military members have died, according to AP's count. That includes at least 852 deaths resulting from hostile action, according to the military's numbers.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

No new deaths reported.

No new deaths reported. The latest identifications reported by the military:

Army Spc. David L. Roustum, 22, West Seneca, N.Y.; killed Saturday in a grenade attack on his vehicle in Baghdad; assigned to the Army National Guard, 1st Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, Tonawanda, N.Y.

Army Sgt. Joseph M. Nolan, 27, Philadelphia; killed Nov. 18 When an explosive detonated near his vehicle in Fallujah, Iraq; assigned to the 312th Military Intelligence Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division, Fort Hood, Texas.

Child leads GIs to bomb

TIKRIT, Iraq - An Iraqi youngster in Samarra on Monday led a 1st Infantry Division patrol to a homemade bomb in an alley, allowing it to be defused before it exploded, according to a division news release.

The release said the soldiers

from Task Force 1-26 had been distributing flyers to residents of the neighborhood for about 10 minutes when the boy walked up to them and told them about the bomb.

He led them to an alley, where they found a 155mm artillery round and a 120mm mortar round wired together as a bomb. An Army explosive ordnance detachment team then safely removed it, the release said.

Task Force 1-26 is made up mostly of soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment based in Schweinfurt, Germany, as well as several National Guard detachments. It has been patrolling the Samarra area since March.

From staff reports

Fort Hood GI charged with killing Iraqi citizen

The Associated Press

A U.S. soldier stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, was arrested and jailed Wednesday on a murder charge in the death of an Iraqi civilian in January.

Staff Sgt. Shane Werst, 31, of El Toro, Calif., is accused of killing the Iraqi man while serving with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team out of Fort Carson, Colo.

He also is charged with obstruction of justice for allegedly trying to get his comrades to lie about what happened to Naser Ismail after the Iraqi man was taken into custody in Balad on Jan. 3.

Werst is one of a number of Fort Carson-based soldiers charged with crimes in Iraq.

Two other members of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team face trial for manslaughter in the drowning of an Iraqi man who soldiers reportedly pushed off a bridge into the Tigris River in January. Lt. Col. Jonathan Withington, chief spokesman for the 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, said charges were filed against Werst within days after another soldier came forward to report the alleged incident.

"It happened almost a year ago, but the evidence just emerged and just became known to the division," Withington said. "The command immediately brought in [Army criminal investigators] and we're going to get to the bottom of it."

Withington said Ismail was taken into custody by Werst's unit during a building-by-building search in Balad.

He would not say how Ismail died or whether charges against other soldiers were expected. "It is an open and active investi-

gation," Withington said.

"Currently we're focused on
this specific soldier in this specific incident. Anything else would
be speculation on my part."

Werst, who has been in the Army for nearly 14 years, is currently assigned to the 4th Infantry's Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

He was being held Wednesday at the Bell County jail in Belton because Fort Hood does not have its own lockup.

Withington said a hearing will be held within a week to determine whether Werst will be released or remain confined until his trial. No trial date has yet been set.

If convicted of murder, Werst could be sentenced to life in prison without possibility of parole and dishonorable discharge.

The obstruction of justice charge carries a maximum penalty of five years confinement, along with dishonorable dis-

At least four other Fort Carson soldiers face charges for alleged crimes in Iraq. Sgt. 1st Class Tracy Perkins, 33, is scheduled for trial at Fort Hood next month on charges of manslaughter, conspiracy, assault and lying to investigators stemming from the alleged drowning of an Iraqi civilian in Sa-

marra.
Perkins and 1st Lt. Jack
Saville, both part of the 3rd Brigade Strike Team, are accused of
pushing two Iraqis off a bridge
into the Tigris River as punishment for violating curfew. Perkins is also charged with assault
for a similar incident near Balad
in December.
Saville, a 24-year-old West

Saville, a 24-year-old West Point graduate, will be tried in January.

Fort Carson also is home to the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, two of whose troops were charged in October with "unauthorized treatment of Iraqi individuals" for a reported incident near Ar Rutbah between May and July.

Thanksgiving in Iraq; home in their dreams



RON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Sgt. Brad Nix of the 644th Transportation Company grabs a Thanksgiving dinner Thursday at Logistics Support Area Anaconda, Iraq. Troops across the country had a chance to enjoy a traditional turkey dinner.

There's plenty to eat and drink, but the dinner isn't quite the same as Mom's home cooking

BY RON JENSEN

Stars and Strines

LOGISTICS SUPPORT AREA ANACONDA. IRAO

hanksgiving.
Give thanks.
Thanksgiving in Iraq.
Hey, thanks. Thanks a lot.
"It kind of stinks," said Pvt. 1st Class Clift-

on Thompson, a mechanic with 1st Brigade, 25th Base Support Battalion. He'd rather be back home in Olympia,

Wash. He'd be deer hunting with his father. Then he'd eat a big meal. Then he'd watch football. Then he'd sleep. Instead. he's in a chow line. In Iraq. At

Instead, ne's in a cnow line. In Iraq. .

LSA Anaconda's largest dining facility.

Thanksgiving. Give thanks.

"It's like another duty day," said Tech Sgt. Tim Dorman of the 732nd Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron. He, too, is in line. The sun is shining on the

He, too, is in line. The sun is shining on the dust. He's not home in Virginia. They're smoking a turkey there. He'd help eat it. Watch football. Take a nap. Get up. And eat dessert. Again.

The dining facility looks nice. Some big colorful cakes declare in icing "Happy Thanksgiving." There's a house made of crackers. Colorful bunting. In autumn colors. Brown and orange.

It's festive. It's Thanksgiving-like. They piled it on. KBR brought 200,000 pounds of turkey, 45,000 pounds of stuffing and 25 tons of mashed potatoes to Iraq. Thanksgiving in Iraq.

"Right now, my family's getting together at my brother's house. He lives in Fort Walton, (Fla.)," said Master Sgt. Philip Gaylord, 732nd Expeditionary Mission Support Group.

He's not there. He's in Iraq

Sgt. Jimmy Billingsley is a driver with the 1171st Transportation Company with the Tennessee National Guard. He's dealing with it by playing mind games.

"We make the best out of it," he said. "We know it's Thanksgiving. So in our minds, we make it Thanksgiving."

Football later. Much later. The first game is at 9 p.m. in Iraq, long after the pumpkin pie. There were 73,750 pies in heater. Back home in Humbolt, Tenn., Sgt. Jerry

Cox, also of the 1171st, would "eat till you fall down."

He might do that here. There're 5,000

hams to be eaten, too.

That's one thing, then, he won't miss out on: The food.

"It just seems like another day in Iraq," he said. The dining facilities held a competition. Which one would be best decorated for the

holiday. Ice sculptures. Big, tall cakes of several layers. Autumn colors. Thanksgiving, you know.

The troops ate the turkey and the ham and the cranberry sauce — 25,000 pounds of cranberry sauce is in the country.

They dug into the pumpkin pie and the eggnog. Iraq was floating in 8,750 gallons of eggnog. Alcohol-free eggnog, of course.

It was a special day. A thankful day. Plenty of food. It was good, too.

"Td be at my mother's house right now [in Tennessee]," said Sgt. Christie Cosola of the 1171st. "That's where they're at. The whole family gets together."

Not the whole family. She's in Iraq. First in line, actually. Just happened that way. "Like every other day around here," she

said. "I'm going home soon. That's what I'm thinking about."

Something to be thankful about. It's

Something to be thankful about. It's Thanksgiving in Iraq.

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensenr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Back home, soldiers find solace in one another

By JESSE HAMILTON

The Hartford Courant

The two loners talk almost every day.

Five minutes on the phone. What are you doing? Nothing special. How about you? Most times, Joe Yorski doesn't tell Dan Lawler how much it hurts to have watched his old life — his pre-Iraq life — come apart, his marriage over, his family split in two.

And Lawler doesn't always mention the way he can close his eyes sometimes and feel like he's back in Baghdad, as if a mortar shell might fall at any second to shatter his peace.

There's no reason to dwell on these things with each other. Both already know. Even when it's not mentioned, their year in Iraq is with them, living in the pauses in conversation, pushing them closer together.

Lawler isn't sure why he picks up the phone in his New Jersey office and dials Yorski at the New Britain Police Department in New Britain, Conn. He just can't help wondering what his platoon mate from the 143rd Military Police Company might be doing. So he calls. And it doesn't matter what they talk about. It's enough that they are connected again.

Both need that contact, because the war came home with them. Not roadside bombs and gunfire, but different dangers, the kind of trouble that rings familiar to veterans of any war.

So as they try again to live normal lives, the loners find themselves doing what they're used to: watching each other's back.

Dodging bombs in Iraq

On Oct. 26, 2003, Sgt. 1st Class Dan Lawler was sitting in a Humvee in front of a Baghdad police station when the night air flashed with fire and shards of metal. The first detonations left his ears buzzing, but they were not loud enough to drown out the screaming.

A mortar shell had hit the Humvee next to his. Lawler and others from the 143rd moved toward the screams. Three soldiers from another group, the 527th MP, had been hit. Two were in desperate

shape, their legs tangles of meat and blood. Lawler found the third, her helmeted head slumped against the Humvee steering wheel. Pfc. Rachel Bosveld was unconscious but alive.

Lawler and another soldier cut Bosveld from her seat belt and carried the 19-year-old between them toward the station, stopping only when a mortar explosion forced Lawler to his knees.

"She stopped breathing!" Lawler shouted in the crowded room.

The CPR didn't work. It couldn't. A small piece of shrap-nel had hit a spot not protected by her body armor. It punched through her torso, burning a trail through her insides that no medic could fix. Rachel Bosveld, a homesick teen barely out of high school, was on her way back home.

Trouble at home

The argument between Yorski and his wife, Denise, was the kind nobody wins. Yorski's head was full of the falling towers of 9/11 and a friend he lost inside. He wanted to go back to the Connecti-

cut National Guard's 143rd MPs, the unit with which he'd gone to the 1991 Gulf War. He wanted to serve his country in something other than a New Britain police uniform.

Denise argued that he'd done his service. The Army didn't need him.

For the 34-year-old Yorski,

though, having a family was reason enough to serve, to want to defend his country. I have to put my foot down, he told himself. I have to do this.

He signed up to be Staff Sgt. Joe Yorski again. But he didn't expect his unit to be called up so quickly. The 143rd was among several in Connecticut that would get a look inside another Middle East war.

As the months passed, he didn't receive cards or letters or the care packages that other soldiers received. Something was wrong at home. He talked to his wife from a phone bank in downtown Baghdad while his squad guardet the street outside. He applied for emergency leave, but it was denied. He waited for a regular R&R and was among the first to receive one.

Yorski flew home for the two-week leave. A friend gave him a ride to his house. When he got there, his wife called the police. Her complaint: He'd shown up unannounced. He learned his wife was seeing another man and adecided to serve him with di-vorce papers. He had a handful of days, his first in the house they had built, to get reacquainted with his kids and get a lawyer.

The Army told him he didn't have to go back to Iraq. No. I have a squad, a bunch of young kids, Yorski told himself. I still have a job to do.

So he went back to Baghdad and to 3rd Platoon. The platoon was run by Lawler. Yorski had a growing friendship with the platoon sergeant who, when he wasn't snapping orders or chewing his soldiers out, reminded Yorski he had a family in Iraq that needed him, too. Lawler pushed Yorski right back mito his feet from each other. In their scant off hours, they would talk about family life and missing their children.

For Yorski, "Dan was a big help."

Hospital: Fallujah wounded put AF docs to test

HOSPITAL FROM PAGE

"War doesn't discriminate. Everybody gets hurt," said Dr. (Lt. Col.) Jim Quinn, hospital chief of

They came in an endless chain, carried from the helicopter pad nearby, through the swinging plywood door of the emergency room and into the operating rooms. Again and again. And again.

"We pretty much did not have an operating room empty for eight days. We have three operating rooms," said Dr. (Lt. Col.) Dan Jenkins, trauma medical director. "I stopped looking at my watch. I would say most guys had no idea what day it was."

Doctors and surgeons catnapped when they could — an hour here, an hour there. Some medical staff would break away for four hours of uninterrupted sleep and then go back to 24 hours of uninterrupted work.

"The first day or two was a lot of adrenalin," said Capt. Henry LeBlanc, nurse manager of the emergency room.

The patient load numbered in the hundreds. The wounds were brutal. Limbs torn away. Bodies shredded by bits of fast-flying metal and sharp shards of glass. Wounds that refused to stop bleeding.

Emergency room nurse Capt. Manuel Martinez, a neo-natal intensive care unit nurse back at Wilford Hall Air Force Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, was shaken by what he saw two weeks ago.

"I don't think anything can prepare you for what we do here," he said.

But there is a method for measuring the success of the hospital staff's efforts, a way to quantify the effectiveness of choking back emotion and focusing on the job.

People died at the hospital, but only those who arrived with mortal brain injuries perished. No medical procedure or effort could have saved them, doctors said. But they were the only

"Of the other hundreds of casualties that we operated on," Jenkins said, "not a single patient died."

First taste of battlefield

For nearly every person on the staff — surgeon, nurse, x-ray technician, pharmacist, what-have-you — this was their first taste of combat medicine.

Most of them are from Wilford Hall at Lackland Air Force Base, the service's largest hospital. San Antonio is a big city with its share of violent crime, auto accidents and natural disasters.

"Coming here and taking care of the (improvised explosive device), mortar, grenade blast injury patients really required a small amount of on-the-job training," said Jenkins, who for eight years has taught surgeons to ipprepare for war. "We didn't know what it was like. We knew what it was supposed to be like."

The staff was making a bit of history just by showing up. This is the first time since the Vietnam war the Air Force has operated a hospital like this in a war zone. That's not to say Air Force docs and nurses haven't been near the front in the last 30 years, but they haven't had a presence like this one.

"It's not as groundbreaking as it might appear," said Quinn. "Doing something of this size and scope is what's unique."



Airman 1st Class Alvin Thomas scrubs a surgical table at the Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad Air Base, Iraq.



IOTOS BY NON JENSEN/Stars and Stripes

Capt. Debra Nichols, a nurse at the Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad Air Base, Iraq, prepares a post-surgery patient for movement. The hospital treated hundreds of patients during a surge of wounded from the recent flichting in Falluiah.

An Air Force Theater Hospital is defined as having 85 beds, with the ability to expand.

More than 200 people are on the staff in Balad, including 15 to 20 surgeons. Although most come from Wilford Hall, about a dozen Air Force bases are represented. The staff is augmented by Australian Air Force doctors and nurses.

Changes and concerns

The Air Force took over in September from the Army's 31st Combat Support Hospital. Only a few changes were made, said Dr. (Col.) Greg Wickern, commander of the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, which runs the hospital.

For one, infection control was enhanced, he said. The place was scrubbed from top to bottom and measures increased to keep out the dust that seeps in everywhere. Hand washing is emphasized even more than usual. Dressings are to be changed only in the sterile confines of an operating room, not the ward.

"I don't think we've had a single external wound develop post-operative infection," said Wickern, a pediatrician by trade back in Texas. "That's just amazing under these conditions."

Also, the Air Force added a team to handle injuries to the neck and head, something that was not part of the 31st CSH. Until then, cases requiring such care were sent to the combat support hospital in Baghdad.

For the first two months, business was brisk, but manageable,

nothing out of the ordinary. Wickern admitted to some concerns as the possibility of an all-out battle on his doorstep drew closer.

"I knew we had the expertise," he said.

But, he added, "We were a lit-

tle worried about the shock and awe."

Second Lt. Aidan O'Neil, a nurse in labor and delivery back

home, said she didn't know what to expect.

She works on the post-operative ward and is modest about it

saying she doesn't do the heroic things done in the emergency room or in surgery. "I make sure they get their an-

tibiotics so they don't get infections," she said.

Sometimes, she said, the patients weren't in the ward more

than 10 minutes before they were whisked away for evacuation. "We had patients who begged

not to be evacuated out of theater," she said.

When the wounded troops

When the wounded troops woke up from surgery, she said, "the first they want to know is, 'Where's my buddy?'"

O'Neil found the time as often as she could to check for them. It was a thrill for her to report back that the patient's buddy was doing well in a bed nearby.

"What they do is great," O'Neil said of the wounded troops. "What I do is a privilege." LeBlanc, recalling the frenetic days in the E.R., said,

"Considering what the guys in Fallujah were going through, what we had to do seemed reasonable." Quinn, an allergist and immunologist, added: "I don't think I'll ever get used to battlefield injuries to kids."

Back to normal

A few days after the chaos subsided, the hospital was running along at a more normal pace. It still had a number of Iraqi patients — fighters who helped the coalition. They can't be evacuated until their care and safety can be guaranteed.

But the emergency room was back to treating patients who had twisted ankles playing basketball or something equally mundane.

Reflecting on the effort during "the Fallujah surge," as some called it, the staff gave itself pats on the back.

"There's no weakness in this team," said Jenkins. He praised everyone, from the

emergency room crew and the emergency room crew and the x-ray technicians to the supply personnel and the blood lab staff.

He had especially credited the forward medical teams, which were the first to treat the wounded and get them back. Added Wickern said, "I knew

it would go well. I expected it to go well."

But, he said, the result was "better than I ever would have expected."

LeBlanc said, "I think we did great. I know we did great. There's no doubt. The criteria is, 'Is this a place you would want to be taken if you were injured?' The answer is, yes."

E-mail Ron Jensen at: jensenr@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Army may double some officers' war tours

Plan calls for filling 500 slots by extending tours of O-4s, O-5s from 179 days to one year

BY TOM BOWMAN

WASHINGTON - The Army is planning to double service time for hundreds of officers going to Iraq and Afghanistan an effort to meet "war time needs" that would include pulling officers out of military professional schools or delaying entry into these academic programs so they can deploy overseas, officials said.

The plan calls for filling around 500 staff slots between Iraq and Afghanistan in the coming months, with majors and lieutenant colonels serving a year in those countries rather than the current 179

The Army is also considering "uncon-ventional solutions" to its staffing problems, which include requiring early graduation from or delayed entry into profes sional military education programs and curtailing some family-oriented programs, such as one that allows soldiers to extend their tours by a year so their children could finish high school, according to an Army memo obtained by The Baltimore Sur

One Army officer said there are plans to pull at least a dozen officers from the current 215 who are pursuing master's degrees in strategic studies at the Army War College in Carlisle, Pa., to help meet the need for war zone officers. But an Army snokesman said no decisions have been made about tapping officers, who are halfway through their yearlong course work. "It's not the case, as we speak. We're ex-





ploring options," said Lt. Col. Kevin V. Arata, a spokesman for the Human Resources Command in Alexandria, Va.

"A small number" of majors were pulled from the Army's Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kan., last year and sent to Iraq or Afghanistan before they completed the normal year of schoolwork, although they qualified in their requirements Arata said. Plans to extend duty for more than 500 officers is designed to stabilize staffs in Afghanistan and Iraq to improve command and control ongoing operations,

But some officers say the decisions are likely to harm morale and lead to increased numbers of retirements

"A lot of people who have options to retire, will retire," said a lieutenant colonel who already has served in Iraq and received the memo, which was sent last week to several thousand officers. The officer, who requested anonymity, added, "We are eating our seed corn."

Arata said he doubted the planned efforts would hurt morale. "Most people re-alize we're a nation at war," he said. "As professional soldiers that doesn't become

But the Army's new plan to extend tours, curtail professional education and also curb some family programs come as some troops in Iraq are being extended beyond their one-year mark. About 6,500 soldiers - split between the 1st Cavalry Division and the 1st Infantry Division - are being extended for at least two more months

There is speculation that other troops also may be extended or additional soldiers sent from bases in the United States to battle the growing insurgency and provide security for Iraq's planned elections in January. There are now 140,000 U.S. troops in Iraq and another 20,000 in Af-

Some members of Congress are pressing for more U.S. troops in Iraq

Arizona Sen. John McCain, a Republican, called for "at least 40,000 or 50,000 more" troops last Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press." And Sen. Jack Reed. D-R.L. a former Army officer who recently re-turned from a trip to Iraq, has said, There's a legitimate issue about the number of troops

Asked Tuesday about the need for more troops in Iraq, Gen. Richard B. Myers, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, told reporters at the Pentagon that commanders are continually reviewing troop levels.

And Defense Secretary Donald H.

Rumsfeld, who appeared with Myers, said. "The answer is that the security situation on the ground is going to determine whether or not you increase or decrease troops or leave them where they are, knowing that during this period the Iraqi security forces are coming up."

Arata denied that the efforts outlined in the memo reveal that the Army is spread too thinly to deal with its overseas missions, a view held by some active-duty and retired officers, as well as some members of Congress. "We're certainly looking at different ways of doing things. I wouldn't say we're stretched," he said.

But retired Army Lt. Gen. John Riggs who oversaw the Army's modernization efforts and angered top Pentagon officials by declaring early this year that the Army needed at least 10,000 more soldiers, said the memo reveals a nagging problem. "We don't have enough Army," he said.

Riggs, a highly decorated Vietnam War eteran who retired this year, now says the Army's current plan to temporarily increase the 480,000-soldier Army by 30,000 troops over the next several years is a "halfway measure," given the ongoing missions overseas

"The tens of thousands are probably a stop-gap measure," said Riggs. "It may be greater than 100,000."

The Army's leadership, however, has argued that it wants to temporarily boost the number of troops to deal with the current "emergency" situation abroad, rather than permanently increase the force to a level that may not be necessary in the future and would be too costly to maintain.

Volunteers make sure there's no shortage of blood

When the Air Force hospital on Balad Air Base in Iraq needs donors, all it has to do is ask and people line up

BY RON JENSEN Stars and Stripes

BALAD AIR BASE, Iraq When the Air Force Theater Hospital needs whole blood it has only to ask.

Soldiers, airmen, Marines and civilians will descend on the hos pital to roll up their sleeves and bleed for the cause. 'Usually the problem is, we

have too many people," said Dr. (Lt. Col.) Jim Quinn, chief of staff of the hospital at Balad Air Base, which the Army calls Logistics Support Area Anaconda.

Whatever you call the base, the people who send out the request for blood call the response "wonderful.

"I've had to turn them away. They show up in droves," said Maj. Jody Noe, officer in charge at the hospital's blood laboratory. 'We've had them line up out the hallway

The hospital, operated by the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group, has been busy lately. It treated hundreds of wounded American GIs. Iragi troops. enemy fighters and civilians from the recent fighting in Fallujah, and used large amounts of blood in the process.

One doctor remembered a GI with both legs blown off who required "three human beings' worth" of blood before he was stabilized.

During the week of the Fallujah offensive, the hospital gave out 281 units, said Master Set, Michael Kent, a technician in the blood laboratory. It has transfused nearly 1,000 pints since the Air Force medics arrived in September.

For most blood needs, the hospital can use blood products, such as packed red cells, that can be shipped and stored for long periods of time

Those products come mostly from donors at American military bases around the world.

However, when the clotting qualities of platelets are needed. donors are required. Platelets can-

"The only way to do that is with fresh blood," Quinn said. "We've got a very good supply of every-thing but platelets."

Noe said, "We can save [whole blood for 24 hours. We like to give it within eight hours.

That's why the hospital is so thankful for the quick response of the donors. When a need arises, e-mails slither to all corners of the base, home of 23,000 people, asking for a particular blood type. Within 15 minutes, Noe said, volunteers start showing up.

Sometimes the need is met before everyone is even screened.

"We'll send them home and tell them to keep their ears open,'

Although people should wait eight weeks before donating



Tech Sgt. Danelito Villanueva tests blood donated at the Air Force Theater Hospital at Balad Air Base, Iraq. Volunteers usually swamp the hospital when donors are needed

again, Noe said, she has caught people returning within three days, offering another pint.

The base isn't the only place that needs donors, Noe said. Detary bases to maintain that sup-

spite the ability to store many of the blood products for long periods of time, there is a need for continued blood donation at mili-

"We need it," she said. "We need it badly."

E-mail Ron Jensen at:

'We are going to pay for this in blood'

BY SCOTT GOLD

Los Angeles Times

DONA ANA ARMY CAMP, N.M. — Members of a National Guard battalion preparing for deployment to Iraq said this week that they are under strict lockdown and being treated like prisoners rather than soldiers by Army commanders at the remote desert came undeast the company of the control of the c

desert camp where they are training. Even more troubling, a number of the Guard troops said, is that the training they have received is so poor and equipment shortages so prevalent they fear their casualty rate will be needlessly high when they arrive in Iraq early next year.

"We are going to pay for this in blood," one Guard member said.

They said they believe their treatment and training reflects an institutional bias against National Guard troops by commanders in the active-duty Army, an allegation

that Army commanders denied.

Army commanders denied.

Army commanders said the concerns were an inevitable result of the military's decision to shore up its strained military by turning "citizen-soldiers" into fully-integrated, front-line combat troops.

About 40 percent of the troops in Iraq are either reservists or National Guard

The 680 members of the 1st Battalion of the 184th Infantry Regiment were activated in August, and are preparing for deployment at Dona Ana, a former World War II prisoner-of-war camp, 25 miles from its

large parent base, Fort Bliss, Texas.

Members of the battalion, headquartered in Modesto, Calif., said in two-dozen interviews that they are allowed no visitors or travel passes, have scant contact with their families and that morale is terrible.

Iraq-bound Guard unit alleges training unequal, inadequate; leaders disagree

"I feel like an inmate with a weapon," said Cpl. Jajuane Smith, 31, a six-year Guard veteran from Fresno, Calif., who works for an armored transport company

when not on active duty. Several soldiers have fled Dona Ana by vaulting over rolls of barbed wire that surround the small camp, the Guard troops interviewed said. Others, they said, are contemplating going AWOL, at least temporarily. to reunite with their families for

Lt. Col. Michael Hubbard, of Fort Bliss, said the military largely must confine the soldiers to Dona Ana to ensure that their training is complete before they are sent to

"A lot of these individuals are used to doing this two days a month and then going home," Hubbard said. "Now the job is 24/7. And they experience culture shock."

But many of the soldiers interviewed said the problems they cite go much deeper than culture shock. And military anatysts agree that tensions between active-duty soldiers and National Guard troops have been exacerbated as the war in Iraq has required dangerous and

long-term deployments from both.

In the most highly publicized incident, in October more than two dozen Army reservists in Iraq refused to drive a fuel convoy to a town north of Baghdad because the

trucks they had been given were not armoved for combat duty

At Dona Ana, soldiers have questioned their commanders about conditions at the camp, occasionally breaking the protocol of formation drills to do so. They said they have been told repeatedly that they cannot be trusted because they are not active-duty soldiers — though many of them are former active-duty soldiers now in their 30s and 40s who work in law enforcement, banking and business.

"I'm a cop. I've got a career, a house, a family, a college degree," said one sergeant, who lives in Southern California and spoke, like most of the soldiers, on condition of anonymity.

"I came back to the National Guard specifically to go to Baghdad, because I believed in it, believed in the mission. But I have regretted every day of it. This is demoralizing, demeaning, degrading. And we're supposed to be ambassadors to another country? We're supposed to go to war like this?"

Pentagon and Army commanders rejected the allegation that National Guard or Reserve troops are prepared for war differ-

ently than their active-duty counterparts.
"There is no difference," said Lt. Col.
Chris Rodney, an Army spokesman in
Washington. "We are, more than ever, one
Army. Some have to come from a little far-

ther back — they have a little less training. But the goal is to get everybody the same."

The guardsmen at Dona Ana were scheduled to train for six months before beginning a yearlong deployment. They recently learned, however, that the Army plans to send them overseas a month early — in January, most likely — as it speeds up troop movement to compensate for a short-

troop movement to compensate for a shortage of full-time, active-duty troops. Hubbard, the officer at Fort Bliss, also said conditions at Dona Ana are designed to mirror the harsh and often thankless assignments the soldiers will take on in Iraq. That was an initiative launched by Brig Gen. Joseph Chavez, commander of the Gen. Joseph Chavez, commander of the cludes the 184th regiment. The program has resulted in everything from an alcohol ban to armed guards at the entrance to Dona Ana, Hubbard said.

"We are preparing you and training you for what you're going to encounter over there," Hubbard said. "And they just have to go get used to it."

The soldiers also said they are risking courts-martial or other punishment by speaking publicly about their situation. But Staff Sgt. Lorenzo Doninguez, 45, one of the soldiers who allowed his identity to be revealed, said he fears that if nothing changes, men in his platoon will be killed in Iraq.

"Some of us are going to die there, and some of us are going to die unnecessarily because of the lack of training," he said. "So I don't care. Let them court-martial me. I want the American public to know what is going on. My men are guilty of one thing: volunteering to serve their country. And we are at the end of our rope."

Message for our men and women in uniform...

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IN THE WORLD

Iran insists on making changes to U.N. accord

BY GEORGE JAHN The Associated Press

VIENNA, Austria - Iran insisted Thursday it had a right to exempt some equipment from an agreement with the European Union committing it to freeze all parts of a program that can make nuclear weapons-grade uranium

— a move that diplomats said

threatened to scuttle the deal. Mohamed ElBaradei, the chief U.N. nuclear watchdog, revealed Iran's continued refusal to include some centrifuges in the agreement - which the EU says mandates a suspension of all ac-tivities related to uranium enrichment. ElBaradei spoke as board members of his International Atomic Energy Agency grappled with the text of a resolution meant to police Iran's suspension pledge

One of the delegates, who demanded anonymity, described Iran's move as an attempt at arms twisting to wrest concessions on the language of the resolution. Tehran wants any text stripped of even the most indirect allusions to a "trigger mecha-nism" that would enable the board to ask the U.N. Security Council to deal with violations of the suspension pledge.

But another delegate said that - unless agreement is reached with the Europeans - Iran's apparent ploy could backfire and generate support for a more than yearlong U.S. effort for Security Council involvement.

Diplomats said the Americans who insist Iran wants to make nuclear weapons - were unhap-py with the draft, which makes no direct reference to the possibility of referral. But Iranian President Mohamed Khatami said the text was too tough and would

have to be watered down. "This resolution is not a good Iran's state news agency IRNA quoted him as say-

No agreement on the draft was expected Thursday.

Separately, Elbaradei said Pakistan gave the agency approval in principle to inspect some of its own nuclear equipment to test claims by Tehran. He suggested the agreement with Pakistan traditionally secretive about its nuclear activities - could help answer questions about enriched uranium that Tehran insists was inadvertently imported on black market components from Paki-

ElBaradei, head of the International Atomic Energy Agency, said his inspectors would be able to verify a suspension of all enrichment-related programs "with one exception" — centrifuges that Iran insists are not part of the freeze agreement and claims it needs to run for research purposes



Supporters of Ukraine's Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych, right, and opposition candidate Viktor Yushchenko discuss the results of the elections in downtown Kiev on Thursday. Defeated presidential candidate Viktor Yushchenko filed an appeal with Ukraine's Supreme Court on Thursday to declare the election results invalid, the Interfax news agency reported.

Ukraine high court forbids release of election results

legally valid

BY JIM HEINTZ The Associated Press

KIEV, Ukraine - Ukraine's Supreme Court said Thursday that the country's presidential election results would not be published as official until it considers an appeal filed by the opposition candidate. who has claimed the vote was rigged.

The decision could significantly boost supporters of opposition leader Viktor Yushchenko, who have flooded the streets of Kiev since the Sunday run-off and won significant international backing.

But it also foretells a continuation of tension for several days. The appeal will be considered on Monday, court spokeswoman Liana Shlyanoshnikova said

Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych was declared winner of the election on Wednesday with a margin of about three percentage points, but he cannot become president until the results are officially pub-

Yushchenko's campaign filed an appeal earlier in the day.

The protesters have braved freezing temperatures in Kiev's Independence Square since Sunday's run-off election, saying the ballot was rigged to allow Yanukovych to win. They received a boost Thursday from visiting Lech Walesa, the founder of the Polish Solidarity movement, who said he was "amazed" at their enthusiasm and predicted their protest would succeed.

Walesa, in Ukraine to try to mediate in the crisis said he met earlier with Yanukovych, "not as a presidential candidate but as prime minister. If he is prime minister, then he should unify and not divide the people."

Western observers have denounced the vote as fraudulent, citing voter intimidation, multiple voting and other irregularities. The United States and the European Union said they couldn't accept the results as legitimate and warned the Ukrainian government of "consequences" in relations with the West. It was unclear whether Yushchenko's anneal was

According to the Interfax news agency, only election results from individual voting districts can be challenged, not results as a whole. The opposition also planned to file complaints in regional courts to protest the vote results

The Western-leaning reformist Yushchenko and his allies had called for an "all-Ukrainian political strike" starting Thursday.

However, there were no indications that a national strike was taking hold, although workers from several factories in Yushchenko's stronghold region of Lviv were reportedly leaving their jobs to come to

In another sign of a growing split, some 300 Ukrainian diplomats signed a joint statement of support for Yushchenko, a diplomat told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

Army deserter case

TOKYO - U.S. Army deserter to North Korea Charles Jenkins will be released this week from a jail near Tokyo, six days earlier than planned, a media report said Thursday.

Jenkins, who was convicted of desertion and of aiding the enemy in a Nov. 3 U.S. court-martial and sentenced to 30 days imprisonment, will be released at Yokosuka Naval Base on Saturday, Kyodo News agency reported, citing unnamed sources.

Jenkins deserted his Army unit along the Demilitarized Zone between the Koreas in January 1965

Ouake shakes Italy

ROME — An earthquake shook northern Italy overnight, injuring about nine people and damaging scores of buildings, officials said Thursday. Hundreds of people fled their homes and poured into the streets.

The 5.2-magnitude temblor hit just before midnight and was felt across northern and central Italy. But most of the damage was concentrated in smaller towns near Lake Garda, where the epicenter was located.

The National Institute of Geophysics in Rome said that there were six aftershocks after the main quake, the strongest of which had a magnitude

Another quake, with a mag-nitude of 4.8, hit the southern Adriatic coast on Thursday morning, said the institute. There were no reports of injuries or damage.

Snow falls over Athens ATHENS, Greece - Athens,

usually known for its high temperatures, received its first snowfall of the season Thursday, with a light dusting caus-ing huge traffic jams on streets leading into the Greek capital. The snow, which mostly fell

on the city's northern suburbs, came as temperatures plunged to near freezing around the Temperatures were expect-

ed to rise by the weekend, the National Weather Service said

Estonia bombing kills 2

TALLINN, Estonia - Two people were killed and three injured in the northern outskirts of the Estonian capital early Thursday morning when man blew himself up after tak-ing a police officer hostage. Police were quick to say it was

not terror-related. The man, who wasn't identified, had taken the officer hostage inside a police bus in Tallinn's residential Oismae area, police spokesman Robert Antropov told Estonian state

He was wearing a belt containing explosives and detonated them, killing himself and officer Julia Gorbatsjova, a member of the department's canine

From The Associated Press

Moscow has complained about what it considers Western Europe's interference on human rights in Chechnya. It also accuses the EU of double standards.

Russia, EU fail to complete negotiations

THE HAGUE, Netherlands -Russia and the European Union failed to complete negotiations Thursday on a "strategic partnership" because of disagreements over security, but said they were confident that final agreement will be reached next year.

The goal of the partnership is to boost ties in four areas: the economy; freedom, security and justice; external security; and research, education and culture.

"We have not reached agreement on all" points, Dutch Prime Minister Jan Peter Balkenende said after meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin at the EU-Russia summit.

Putin said: "Everyone sees movement forward This work will be accomplished" by May

The Dutch leader, whose coun try currently holds the EU presidency, said there would be further talks as the need was for "quality rather than speed."

The proposed "strategic part-nership" the EU and Russia discussed is akin to a deal the European grouping has been pursuing with Ukraine. Russia, however, is demanding terms that would reflect its status as a world power.

could not agree on how to craft closer cooperation on security issues, an area that touches on Russia's relations with Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus and the Caucasus re-

The EU wants to reach out to its eastern neighbors with economic and political assistance. Moscow, though, is wary of a clash between an expanding Europe and its sphere of influence.

IN THE STATES

2 CIA foreign chiefs to retire

BY SIOBHAN MCDONOUGH The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - The chiefs of the CIA's Europe

and Far East divisions are retiring according to a federal official, marking the latest high-level departures at the spy agency since Porter Goss took over as director at the end of September.

The names of the officials will not be released because they work undercover.

The two CIA officials were in the highest echelon of clandestine service, the directorate of operations, The New York Times reported in Thursday's editions. The federal official confirmed the departures, on condition of anonymity.

The retirements come just 10 days after two other top officials — Deputy Director for Operations Stephen Kappes and his immediate deputy, Michael Sulick — told colleagues they were leaving the CIA.

It was unclear whether Kappes and Sulick re-

signed voluntarily or were asked to step down Earlier this month, the agency's No. 2 official, John McLaughlin, retired, citing personal reasons. The CIA has been heavily criticized for prewar intelligence lapses in Iraq and the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. And former officials have described intense friction within the agency with Goss now in charge.

Some said there were concerns that more officers at the CIA's counterterrorist center and elsewhere may be asked to resign or told that they no longer have a future at the agency.

Goss, a former CIA officer and headed the House Intelligence Committee while in congress, made waves with the clandestine service President Bush nominated him to head the CIA.

Officials as senior as former CIA Director George

Tenet fumed over assertions by Goss' committee this summer that the clandestine service "needs fix-ing" and that the agency could become a "stilted bu-reaucracy incapable of even the slightest bit of suc-

Tuesday. President Bush ordered what may end up being a major expansion of the CIA, calling for the agency to add thousands of new analysts and spies as part of an ongoing buildup in the war on terrorism.

The directive set no timetable for the changes and offered no indication the White House will ask Congress for more money to fund the plan.



Valparaiso, Ind., Mayor Jon Costas, right, listens as Superintendent of Valparaiso Community Schools Michael Benway, center, talks with Valparaiso Police Chief Michael Brickner during a news conference at Valparaiso High School on Wednesday following a stabbing.

Student slashes five classmates in Indiana high school attack

BY TOM COYNE The Associated Press

VALPARAISO, Ind. - A student carrying a machete and an-other knife slashed five class-

mates Wednesday morning as they watched a Spanish class video, authorities said Eight Valparaiso High School students were taken to the hospi-

tal, including the accused attacker, a 15-year-old freshman, Police Chief Michael Brickner said. All but one of those injured were released by Wednesday afternoon. he said. Five suffered cuts and the others complained of pain from other injuries, authorities

Authorities did not release any information about a possible mo tive for the attack, which hapnened as classes were starting at the school some 20 miles southeast of Gary

Brickner said that before carrying out the attack, the student asked his teacher for permission to close the classroom door. He shut the door and then started swinging the weapons at his classmates, the police chief said.

"Students began to flee from the classroom, and he fled from the classroom and was tackled to the floor by school faculty members," he said.

Brickner said one of the knives was a machete and the other was a serrated knife. The youth accused in the attack remained in

The boy is an A-B student who started in the Valnaraiso school system this year, Brickner said. 'I think it's accurate to say that when the teachers learned who this student was, they were very surprised," he said.

GOP lawmakers still sweating tax bill

BY ALAN FRAM The Associated Press

WASHINGTON - A handful of lawmakers voted for spending legislation to keep the government from shutting down as House Democrats resolved to let Republicans twist in the wind a little longer over a provision passed last week that both parties agree was a bad idea.

They'll fix it later, when the Democrats decide to let the Republicans stop sweating. For now, Wednesday's vote by skeleton crews in the House and Senate on a stopgap spending bill keeps the government operating until early December. The holdup is over language

buried in a \$388 billion spending bill that could let leaders of Congress' Appropriations committees examine income tax returns

Both parties favor killing the tax return idea before it becomes law and the Senate has already voted to do so. But Democrats blocked a House vote until Dec. 6.

That delay gave Democrats more time to criticize majority Republicans for letting the provision slip through and for using their muscle to ram hills through Congress with little chance for lawmakers to learn what is in them. The overall bill and accompanying documents stood 3,646 pages tall on lawmakers' desks when they approved it Saturday.

The measure was completed in

round-the-clock negotiations so exhausting that Rep. David Obey, D-Wis., said Wednesday that two aides fainted from sleeplessness. He said such procedures are hurt-ing Congress' credibility with the

The discovery of the provision - made Saturday by a Democratic aide on the Senate Budget Committee as Congress was considering the overall spending package - saved Congress from "a mas-sive embarrassment," said Rep. Robert Matsui, D-Calif.

"Had this become law, there would have been some time over the next few years where someone would have abused that process and someone's returns would have been disclosed to the press," he said.



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Wis. hunting death suspect was Army Guard marksman

BY TED GREGORY AND GLENN JEFFERS

Chicago Tribune

RICE LAKE, Wis. - As blaze orange-ribbon memorials started appearing on car antennas in this north woods community and grieving residents prepared funerals for six people killed in a deer-hunting trespassing dispute, more details emerged Wednesday about the man suspected of the crime.

Military records show that Chai Soua Vang, 36, a St. Paul truck driver, received a U.S. Army commendation as a sharpshooter and was a qualified rifleman in the use of an M-16 during his six years with the National Guard.

In addition, St. Paul Police reported that they had been called to Vang's home on St. Paul's troubled lower east end five times since June 2003. In two of those incidents, Vang called police to settle domestic disputes at his home.

Accounts differ about precisely how the shooting began. In a statement made to investigators Monday, Vang, a Hmong immigrant from Laos and naturalized U.S. citizen, reportedly said he mistakenly had wandered upon the deer stand. According to authorities, Vang said he was taunted by racial slurs before one of the hunters pointed a rifle at him and fired a shot, which missed as Vang crouched.

Vang said he then began shooting the people, according to police. One of the hunters who survived gave a different account, saying that Vang fired the first shots

Vang has not been formally charged, but is being held on a \$2.5 million bail

Family and friends of the killed and wounded hunters have rejected Vang's account, saying he is attempting to lessen his own responsibility for killing six people and wounding two others.

Holocaust survivor reunites with savior

BY VERENA DOBNIK The Associated Press

NEW YORK — In a meeting that left her trembling with emotion, Hanna Morawiecka was reunited with the Jewish boy whose family she helped rescue from extermination in Poland during World War II.

A beaming Andre Nowacki, now 68, greeted the Polish woman at Kennedy Airport.

"Hanna Morawiecka, my little sister," he said Wednesday after hugging her and presenting her with a bouquet of carnations.

"You haven't changed since you were 9," she told him in Polish.

They first met in 1942, when Morawiecka, her two sisters and their mother took in the Nowacki family after Nowacki's father was sent to a Nazi death camp. The Catholic family, at risk to their own lives, provided a safe haven for the Jewish mother and son at their Warsaw home.

If the Germans had discovered the Nowackis, the Morawiecka sisters "would have been shot on the spot," said Nowacki, whose father owned a knitting factory. Morawiecka's father was a member of the Underground.

Both families fled a burning Warsaw in 1944 after the Germans moved in to quell an uprising, and they hid in the countryside around the Polish city. The families went their separate ways after exchanging promises to find each other after the war.

Nowacki made his way to Israel, Canada and then the United States. He carried with him through every stop the memory of Morawiecka, five years his senior, and the bravery of her fami-

Nowacki spent two decades searching for them, starting about 40 years ago and going through the Red Cross and other organizations and individuals. Finally, having all but given up, he told a friend in Poland whose father was unemployed, "I will hire your father to find my family. And he did it in one day. He had connections."

Morawiecka and Nowacki kept up their contact. But it wasn't until this week, when she boarded a plane to spend Thanksgiving with him and his American family, that the pair met face to face.

Spongebob

makes his

New York

The Spongebob

waits Thursday

Squarepants ballo

morning to join it's

first Macy's parade

in New York, Thou-

lined the streets to

see the traditional

Thanksgiving Day

vent and to cheer

on some newcomer

like Spongebob.

sands of people

debut



Sharon Walker and her son Randal of Lake Village, Ark., wait for their bus to Flint, Mich. in the Greyhound bus terminal Wednesday in Chicago. Millions of travelers throughout the nation have taken to the roads and skies for the Thanksgiving weekend, bucking a trend of lower-than-normal holiday travel in recent years.

Home for the holiday?

Long lines at airports, snowy roads in midwest plus high winds and rain make for trying travel

The Associated Press

The Associated Press

Travelers didn't plan on starting their long Thanksgiving weekend stuck in airports or driving on slippery roads, but then again they hadn't figured on snow — and a lot of it.

A blanket of white stretched from the Great Lakes region to the central Plains. Accumulations from the Midwest's first major snowfall of the season ranged from 4 inches in southeastern Iowa to 9 inches in southern Michigan, the National Weather Service said.

Service said.

High winds and thunderstorms also worked their way across the region Wednesday.

The snow caused flight cancelations and delays as long as three hours at Chicago's O'Hare International Airport and up to two hours at the city's other airport. Midway.

Marc Hendrickson of Seattle gave up on flying after O'Hare canceled his connecting flight to Madison, Wis. He bought a bus ticket to meet his girlfriend in Wisconsin and the two planned to drive to Dubuque, lowa, for the holiday.

"I just want to get there — that's my main concern," Hendrickson said.

Bad weather in Michigan forced Northwest Airlines to cancel 37 flights, 22 of them into or out of Detroit. At Lansing's Capital City Airport, a Northwest Airlines jet carrying 87 passengers and four crew slid off a snow-slicked runway during landing. No one was injured.

Wind gusts of 57 mph were recorded near Champaign, Ill. High winds along Interstate 74 near Greensburg, Ind., caused a tractor trailer to overturn, leaving the highway strewn with debris.

Indiana also had severe thunderstorms and heavy snow. The rain fell across the south, the snow in the north.

"We've had quite a few crashes — slideoffs, fender-benders and people ending up in ditches, but no injuries," said Indiana State Trooper Tom Szymans-

Elsewhere in the country, highways were bumper-to-bumper in Georgia as drivers faced thunderstorms and a threat of tornadoes, part of a system that killed at least four people elsewhere in the South.

"We're seeing some hectic and chaotic driving situations — the road rage, the rear endings, people not allowing other motorists to change lanes," said Georgia State Patrol Trooper Larry Schnall.

The weather also disrupted travel in the Northeast. Airports in New York City, Boston and Newark, N.J., were experiencing delays up to two hours because of rain.

Drivers cruised through Pennsylvania Turnpike toll plazas for free Wednesday after toll collectors and maintenance workers went on strike hours before the holiday rush. Turnpike managers began collecting tolls early Thanksgiving Day.

Virginia families offer troops a home for the holidays

BY SONJA BARISIC

NORFOLK, Va. — Every year for almost 20 years, Chris and Walter Pianka have made room for at least two strangers at their Thanksgiving table.

They are among kindhearted families who volunteer at this time of year to take in more than 100 young military members stationed in southeastern Virginia who can't make it home for the

"It's not their home, but they

usually have a good time," said Chris Pianka, who spends upwards of \$200 every year to treat guests to a fabulous feast of turkey, roast beef, candied yams, mashed potatoes, cookies, cheesecake and more.

The "Adopt a Serviceperson" program, in its 18th year, is coordinated by the USO of Hampton Roads. The nonprofit group works to enhance the quality of life and provide public support for armed service members and their families.

Most of the service members taking part in the Thanksgiving program are Army students done with basic training who are living at Fort Eustis in Newport News for a few weeks or months while they learn military occupational specialties.

Many would have spent Thursday on post and eaten in the mess hall if the volunteer families hadn't adopted them for the day.
"I think it would be pretty lonely, just me and my buddies, hanging out in the barracks," said

Cody Weaver, 18, of Roseville, Calif., a private in the Army National Guard who is training to be a Blackhawk helicopter mechan-

The four-day holiday break was too short for Weaver to head all the way to the West Coast, but he was grateful to be able to spend his first Thanksgiving away from home with a family in Virginia.

Jan and Steve Daum of Gloucester were happy to share the holiday with Weaver and Pvt. Matthew Hendrickson, 19, of Terra Haute, Ind., who also is learning to be a Blackhawk mechanic.

For safety reasons, service members are sent to the families' homes in pairs, with some families taking in more than two peonle

Wash. governor's race faces third recount

BY DAVID AMMONS

OLYMPIA, Wash. — For Dino Rossi, a 42-vote lead was enough to declare victory in the Washington governor's race. Christine Gregoire, however, begged to dif-

And so, with a slim margin and a candidate unwilling to concede Wednesday, the state probably has another recount — a third — to look forward to.

Rossi, a self-made real estate

Marine widow robbed

NORRISTOWN, Pa. — A man pleaded guilty Wednesday to ransacking the apartment of a newlywed Marine reservist killed in Iraq, breaking in while his widow was, with family members planning the soldier's funeral.

Prosecutors said Kevin Selvoski, 24, and an alleged accomplice stole a computer and video games to buy heroin.

Prosecutors said Selvoski had called the widow of Cpl. John Todd, 25, and expressed his condolences.

Todd was killed July 29 by a roadside bomb in eastern Baghdad; he was serving his second deployment to Iraq.

Ornaments by Tripp

WASHINGTON — Seems Linda Tripp is still preoccupied with the White House.

The woman who made Monica Lewinsky a household name has designed two hand-painted glass ornaments, one depicting the first White House Christmas in 1800, and the other in 1861.

The limited-edition ornaments, available at the Christmas Sleigh in Middleburg, Va., cost \$65 each, with some proceeds going to a children's cancer charity.

Ciliuren's Can

millionaire and former state Senate budget chairman, was the underdog throughout the campaign but emerged with a 261-vote lead after the initial vote tally ended last week. The margin was so tiny that it triggered the automatic re-

The recount that wrapped up Wednesday was done by machine. The campaigns or their parties can now request a hand recount in some or all the counties,

but they have to pay for it.

Gregoire, the state attorney gen-

eral, said the Democratic party has indicated that it is willing to pay for the recount. A statewide recount would cost the Democrats about \$700,000

Secretary of State Sam Reed, the state's chief elections officer, said he plans to certify the machine recount on Tuesday.

The campaigns or their parties have three business days to request a full or partial manual recount

Reed said he would probably direct that such a recount begin Dec. 6, and that the job could last until about Christmas. If a partial recount changes the outcome, state law requires a manual recount in the rest of the state. That would extend the uncertainty past Christmas. Inauguration day

Rossi, 45, was hoping to become the first Republican since 1980 to get elected governor. He ran on a platform of change and job-creation and billed himself as a "conservative with a social conscience" Gregoire, 57, was hoping to become the state's second woman governor. She carried eight of the 39 counties, most notably the largest, King, which includes heavily Democratic Seattle. Gregoire was strongly backed by the women's movement and was best know for battling America's tobacco infor battling America's tobacco in-

Gregoire said the race continues.

"A 42-vote margin, my friends, that is a tied race," she told reporters and supporters in Seattle.

FBI interviews Halliburton whistleblower

The Associated Pres

WASHINGTON — An Army whistleblower who raised concerns that the Pentagon improperly awarded business to Vice President Dick Cheney's former company has been interviewed extensively by the FBI and is gathering documents to help agents.

Army Corps of Engineers contract officer Bunnatine Green house, whose allegations about the Houston-based oil services company Haliburton surfaced in the final weeks of the presidential campaign, was interviewed for a full day last week by the FBI and Army criminal investigators, her lawyer said Wednesday.

"They questioned her about all of her concerns, and they asked questions regarding potential involvement of people at higher-level positions," attorney Michael Kohn said in an interview.

The Associated Press reported last month that the FBI had expanded a criminal probe into allegations Halliburton overcharged the government for fuel, adding questions about whether the Bush administration improperly awarded business in Iraq and the

Balkans to Halliburton without bidding.

In a related development, the inspector general reviewing the spending of U.S. funds in Iraq is recommending the Army consider withholding 15 percent of Halliburton's money on future contracts to address allegations the company has not documented all of the work it has been paid for in the past.

the past.

Halliburton spokeswoman
Cathy Gist said Wednesday night
the company was aware of discussions about a 15 percent withholding but had not been formally told
of any plan to implement it. "We
will continue to work directly
with our client regarding resolution for this issue," she said.

Greenhouse has alleged that she began raising questions to her superiors about why the Pentagon was allowing business to go to Halliburton's KBR subsidiary without competitive bidding.

She contends she then was frozen out from decisions when she pressed her concerns. Kohn said FBI agents interviewed his client for more than eight hours on Nov. 17. They asked questions about who in the Pentagon might have



Bunnatine Greenhouse

applied pressure to get business to Halliburton, he said. Kohn declined to identify any

of the higher officials that were discussed during the interview, but said no White House officials came up.

A legal source familiar with the interview said Greenhouse provided the FBI with new information about intervention on one of the Halliburton matters by a senior defense official.

Kohn said his client was continuing to cooperate. Greenhouse "is in the process of providing additional documentation to both the bureau and the criminal investigation division of the Army," he said.

Pentagon auditors and congressional Democrats have repeatedly turned up problems with Halliburton's contracts. Among the examples cited are:

with the U.S. ambassador to Kuwait intervened to ensure that Halliburton retained a favored Kuwaiti subcontractor for gasoline imports to Iraq. Administration officials have said only career contracting officials made decisions on Halliburton contracts.

■ in 2002. Cheney's chief of staff, a political appointee, was told the vice president's former company would receive no-bid work to restore Iraq's oil facilities. Cheney's spokesman said the information was not given to the vice president. ■ Halliburton charged the gov-

■ Hailiburton charged the government \$2.68 a gallon to impoor Kuwaiti gasoline to Iraq; a U.S. government agency did the same job for \$1.57 a gallon.

Death date nears for Texas woman convicted in slayings

By MICHAEL GRACZYK The Associated Press

GATESVILLE. Texas — Alton was 7.

Farrah was almost 2.

The first letters of their names were

meant to reflect the initials of their dad and mom — A and F, Adrian and Frances.

The last time Frances Newton saw her

The last time Frances Newton saw her husband and children was more than 17 years ago, the evening of April 7, 1987, five days before her 22nd birthday. She'd run a few errands and was accompanied by a cousin as she returned to her Harris County apartment.

Adrian, Alton and Farrah were dead in the home. Two weeks later, Newton was arrested and charged with murdering her family.

Convicted and condemned, she's scheduled to become the first black woman executed in Texas on Dec. 1. In a state that annually leads the nation in executions, Newton will become the fourth woman executed in Texas since executions resumed in 1976, the 11th nationally.

But Newton says she didn't murder her family. She believes the real killer is a drug dealer named "Charlie" who was upset with her husband for not repaying a \$500 debt.

She says she remembers walking into the apartment, looking for her family, then finding Adrian's bloody body on the couch. Adrian, 23, had been shot in the head. Alton and Farrah were shot in the chest.

With no eyewitnesses and no confession, prosecutors built a circumstantial case.

Newton's case is the kind that shakes the confidence in the criminal justice system, according to lawyers trying to help her, and provides fodder for death penalty opponents questioning the competence of legal help, particularly for the poor.

Newton's court-appointed lead trial attorney was Ronald G. Mock, notorious for having his clients, perhaps as many as a dozen, wind up on death row.

Mock has been suspended or placed on

Mock has been suspended or placed on probation by the State Bar of Texas at least three times since he first was licensed in 1978.

Earlier this year he was reprimanded for taking a case he wasn't competent to handle, accepting payment, then refusing to refund the money.

Newton, in a recent interview at the



Texas death row inmate Frances Newton, 39, of Houston, sits Tuesday in a visiting room at the Mountain View Unit near Gatesville, Texas. Newton is set to die Wednesday.

AF

Texas Department of Criminal Justice Mountain View Unit just north of Gatesville, where the state's nine condemned women are imprisoned, said when she was arrested, she got the sense that Mock was confident she wouldn't be there long.

But as she remained in jail for months awaiting trial, her confidence waned. Newton's mother contacted another Houston lawyer, David Eisen. With jury selection finally under way, Eisen asked the Harris County court if he could join the case, but asked for time to investigate. Mock, he said, had conducted no investigation and never even talked to one witness. The court refused.

"She didn't get a fair trial, not even close," Eisen said.

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ASSISTANT MANAGING EDITORS:

1, News Peter Photikoe, Photo/Graphics Sharon Olson Brian Bowers Features Sean Moores, Sports

Addresses

U.S. MAIL: Unit 29480, APO AE 09211 INTERNATIONAL MAIL: Postfach 1330, 64345 Griesheim,

Germany FAX: DSN 349-8416; civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601416

FAL DIS 349-8416, div. (+89) (0) 515/5001416 - AMILL News: new@mal.ettripses.2016 - 20

or e-mail: ombudsman@stripes.osd.mil.

How to call us

Editor: DSN 349-8237: civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601237 Letters: DSN 349-8400: civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601400 Sports: DSN 349-8225: civ. (+49) (0) 6155/601225 Sports: DSN 349-8225: civ. (+49) (U) 6155/601427 Circulation: DSN 349-8437; civ. (+49) (U) 6155/601437 Advertising: DSN 349-8335/443; civ (±49) (0) 6155/601335/443

News Bureaus

GERMANY (country code +49)

Bamberg: Rick Emert. 279th BSB, Unit 27535, Box 23541, APO AE
09139-7535; tel. DSN 493-7957 or civ. (0) 951/36896; fax DSN
469-8007 or civ. (0) 951/300-8007;

e-mail: emertr@mail.estripes.osd.m e-mai: emerugman.esinjes.bsd.mi numholder: Terry Boyd, 222nd BSB, APO AE 09034; tel. DSN -485-6089. or civ. (0) 6783-900776: e-mail:

boydt@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Darmstadt: Kevin Dougherty, Unit 29480, APO AE 09211; tel. DSN 349-8406 or civ. (0) 6155-601406;

e-mail: doughertyk@mail.estripes.osd.mil; Ward Sanderson, Unit 29480. APO AE 09211: tal. DSN 349-8326 or civ. (0)

S317:06996
Stuttgart: Charlie Coon, CMR 423, Box 465, APO AE 09107-0465, tel. DSI 421-2088 or ov. 0711-7292088; e-mail: coonco@mail.astrips.co.d.mil
Wirzburg: Steve Lieuer, Tel. DSI 350-5508 or ov. 0931-467-7001. fax cov. (0) 0931-70037; e-mail: levers:@mail.astripss.cod.mil

Aviano/Vicenza: Kent Harris, tel. DSN (314) 632-7652 or civ. (39 0434-66-7652: second line DSN (314) 632-4222 or civ. (39

BOSNIA

Tuzla: Stars and Stripes. Operation Joint Forge, APO AE 09789; tel.

civ. 00387-61-135974; e-mail: bosnia@mail.estripes.osd.mil

UNITED KINGDOM

RAF Mildenhall: Ron Jensen, Duiding 455 ECSS-UK, RAF Mildenhall: Ron Jensen, Duiding 455 ECSS-UK, RAF Mildenhall APO AE 09459, tel. DSN 238-4868 or civ. (+44) (0 1638/544868); fax civ. (+44) (0) 1638/718013; e-mail: jensenr@mail.estipes.od.mil washingToN D.C.

693-6366; e-mail: burgessl@stripes.osd.mi

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Church more than a place

The writer of "Keep religion in the church" (Nov. 14) states that America was not founded by Christians. It was in Christopher Columbus' log that his mission was to find another world and preach the gospel to the heathens. He said he was an unworthy sinner.

Columbus was also a slave trader who took six people back as servants to Spain. and far as the Indians go, they were slaugh tered by the army, not specifically by Christians.

We are all not perfect, but we can choose to turn from sin

As far as the Crusader period, in A.D. 637, the armies of Islam lead by the Caliph Omar conquered Jerusalem, the center of the Christian world and a magnet for Christian pilgrims. The city's Muslim masters exhibited a certain level of religious tolerance. The situation remained stable for more than 400 years. Then, in the latter part of the 11th century, the Turks swarmed westward out of central Asia, overrunning all that lay in their path. The atmosphere of tolerance practiced by the followers of Omar was replaced by vicious attacks on the Christian pilgrims and on their sacred shrines in the Holy City. To the Europeans, the Holy Land was now in the smothering grip of the infidel and something must be done. So again, the war began with Islamic extremists, not merci-

less Christians People tend to think of the church as a place, but it's actually the body of the believers. The purpose is not to save the same Christians every Sunday but to spread the "good news.

As far as America coming more liberal. it is nothing new to this world. For centuries people have added and implicated their own views, which God has warned us of: the teaching of false prophets.

The writer also states he does not like man-made religion. Who would? It's fake. Jesus inspired Christianity and it only takes a few to poison it with liberal views. Once you've done that, it's man-made.

Sgt. Phillip Clinton Grauel Camp Taji Iraa

Tell us what you think

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Result of liberal thinking

I just finished reading "Keep religion in church" (Nov. 14). Can anyone find a sin-gle nation or government that was not won by bloodshed?

It is not what transpired to get to where we are today, but the motive. Sadly enough, many have lost their lives to achieve freedom, but after all the bloodshed had been cleaned up, the people were in a worse state of oppression than when they began. I also disagree with man-made religion, which has brought at times the power of the life-changing gospel to no effect.

The most destructive thing that has happened in the United States in the last 50 years is allowing extremely liberal-minded people to change the "moral markers" of life to broaden the once-narrow road established by God to please all those screaming: "What about our feelings?"

Faith is the foundation of our nation: one nation under God" — not "gods." But a liberal mind would argue this very statement, a statement spoken by the Founding Fathers of our nation.

Sgt. Harvey L. Segura Camp Ferrin-Huggins, Iraq

Start acting like soldiers

Stop it! Stop whining!

Day in and day out for the last 11 months, I've read your petty complaints in Stars and Stripes. You are soldiers, so start

Do you think the men in World War II. Korea or Vietnam worried about someone else's uniform? No. And do you know why?

They were too busy trying to stay alive.

But if you absolutely must write in. make it something worthwhile. For example, how you are going to miss your family during the holiday season or, perhaps, dedicate a few paragraphs to a fallen comrade. Save the uniform-imperfection stuff for back home

And another thing, if you are writing from Kuwait, please don't tell us your gripes. Save the venting for those of us in a real combat zone (that would be Iraq and Afghanistan). Just sit back, enjoy your "combat" pay and sew that patch on your right shoulder (above or below the flag, I don't really care).

Sgt. Casey Clouchete Forward Operating Base Abu Ghraib, Iraa

It was just a joke

The response to "R&R may be in order" (letter, Nov. 20), which was about sugges tions for improving the appearance of the Aerostat, seems to miss what I believe was the letter writer's point, or lack there of it was a joke. I know these days a person is not correct

unless politically correct and humor is often mistaken as means for another person or group to call to arms. So instead of reading too far into what was meant at worst as a bit of sarcasm, I suggest you may want to simply grin and bear it.

On a side note, I find the importance and usefulness of the Aerostat to be somewhere along the lines of Camp Victory's speed-bumps and the logistics support area fences. None of the previously mentioned "improvements" were here when my unit arrived a year ago, and all have been futile in making our deployment here any more secure.

Sgt. Todd Weinzierl Camp Victory, Iraq

Weighing anchors in a new T vice, rejoiced. They guffawed over denials

nce, news anchors were not only the public faces of their networks but also trusted icons, to the point that Sweden's televi-sion anchors were dubbed "Kronkiters" after the fatherly CBS newsman. Tuesday's announcement that Dan Rather, Walter Cronkite's successor at CBS, is de parting is further evidence of how far anchors have fallen.

Conservative Web logs and talk radio shows, where it's been Rathergate 24/7 since the network's botched news report

on President Bush's National Guard ser-

that CBS had pushed out Rather in the wake of the controversial story and subsequent retraction. But he and his network kin are falling victim to stagnant ratings as well. It's all a far cry from the sorrowful re-action when Cronkite announced his retirement in 1980.

Meanwhile, NBC's Tom Brokaw, the nation's top-rated news anchor for the last seven years, will turn his desk over to anchor-in-waiting Brian Williams next week Peter Jennings of ABC, who at 66 will become the new dean of network anchors will now make a last run at reclaiming the No. 1 spot in the network ratings. But that doesn't mean nearly as much as it once did Ratings for evening network news have

declined dramatically since the early 1970s. Cable networks are eating away at the networks' franchise. ... Network news divisions once were the

crown jewels of broadcast companies. crown jeweis of broadcast companies.

Now they just seem like a footnote at NBC,
ABC and CBS.... The next generation of
network anchors will have to shout to be
heard, while even the idea of networks goes increasingly out of focus.

As Cronkite would say: And that's the way it is.

Doonesbury







BY GARRY TRUDEAU

OPINION

Clinton craves spotlight that has new focus

ur quiz today is a multi-ple-choice question: What does Bill Clinton want? (A) To guide Democrats out

(B) To help heal

Michael Goodwin

the nation's bitter divisions

To pave the way for President Hillary

The correct answer is all of the above and none of the above.

What Bubba really wants is vindication. Everything else, including Hillary in the

Oval Office, is just a means to his end game of getting back on top again. It's all about one more come-

It ain't gonna happen.

Clinton's presiding over the opening of his \$165 million library looked like a happy trip down memory lane. Surrounded by family, friends and foes, he was the center of attention, the pudgy young pol turned elder statesman

But behind the facade of generous tributes was the sad spectacle of the once-most-powerful man on Earth trying desperately to find his footing on history's rain-slicked ladder. It's a tricky climb, and time is no longer his friend - and not just because of his fragile health

The world before 9/11 seems like a million years ago. Most of the political lessons he taught us then about the "third way" mean little now. In all the important ways, the future became unhinged from the past. And so the Man from Hope is now the Man from Yesterday.

That's not to say Bill Clinton isn't relevant. He is to the 30,000 devotees who trekked to Arkansas and to the millions who look back with fondness on the first baby-boomer president.

And each time his party loses a presi-dential election, he looks more like a giant. It is shocking to remember that no Democrat since FDR has been elected twice - excent Clinton

Although he never won a majority of the popular vote, his two terms earned him a permanent spot in what one observer calls the inner circle of the world's most exclusive club.

Still, he wants more. He wants us to think of him as great and to still need him But he wasn't great. And we don't need

It's not just Monica - though she comes to mind first, and the impeachment saga she launched will surely be in the top paragraph of his obit. His dismissing it in the library exhibit under the category of the "politics of persecution" was both tasteless and revealing

Jesus did not fool around with interns. But even Clinton's achievements of prosperity and peace now look hollow. In hindsight, we know that much of the prosperity was a bubble fueled by venal corporate criminals. And there was peace only because the Clinton White House chose

not to see that Osama Bin Laden had already declared war on us. The yearning for those days is foolish but probably harmless -- except for the Democratic Party. If its leaders look to Clinton for anything other than a pep talk. they are courting disaster.

American politics, like everything else, changed on 9/11. As the last election proved, the game is no longer about traditional standards of interest groups and issue positions. Biography, charisma and the polish of education matter far less than they did just four years ago.

The new gold standard is at once more



elusive and more precise. For every would-be leader, the test is this: Are you rock-solid? Those who cannot say yes, and convince voters, need not apply. Weakness, waffling, nuance, process they're luxuries from a bygone era.

And for God's sake, no more parsing

and blurring. It's a gut-check world now. and half-truths are no longer half true. They're damnable lies Bubba had his run. His time, and times,

have passed. He isn't ready to accept that, but we must. The future demands it.

Once vocal on Iraq, Annan too quiet on controversy

Chicago Tribune

Kofi Secretary-General Annan can be generous with his opinions. He has pronounced the U.S.-led overthrow of Saddam Hussein to be "illegal," and he warned before the recent assault on Fallujah that a mili tary campaign and "increased insurgent violence" put Iraq's January election at risk.

If only the Iraqi people could hear the secretary-general summon equivalent candor about their billions of dollars in oil money that Saddam looted while Annan's United Nations looked the other way - or corruptly assisted. Instead, Annan continues to block efforts by congressional probers to inspect internal documents that would establish the United Nations' level of complicity

And so, for lack of that candor, the scandal known as Oil-for-Food continues to rise toward Annan's chin. On his watch, the United Nations' higgest-ever relief operation has become its biggest-ever embarrassment. Remember those \$25,000 rewards that Saddam paid to families of Palestinian suicide bombers who had attacked Israeli citizens? The Associated Press now cites Jordanian bank records strongly indicating that Saddam used money stolen under Oil-for-Food to fund those terror bounties. The purported evidence even includes a canceled check delivered to one Palestinian family

And those insurgents in Iraq? Now the heads of two U.S. congressional committees probing Oil-for-Food - Rep. Henry Hyde R-Ill., and Sen. Norm Coleman, R-Minn. have suggested that Oil-for-Food money

may be funding the killers who are preving on American troops For Annan and the United Nations, these

are potentially devastating turns. Particulargiven that the United Nations framed Oil-for-Food as a great humanitarian ges-

Saddam was permitted to sell some oil, under U.N. monitoring, and could use the proceeds to buy food and medicine for his people. Instead he parlayed the program into a vast scheme of kickbacks, bribes and extortions. He ripped off his own people to rebuild his military, construct palaces and purchase the fealty of diplomats, public officials influential citizens and companies all

Saddam's goal was to buy enough clout to

end U.N. sanctions against Iraq. And he near ly got his way. His biggest secret payoffs allegedly went to powerful interests in Russia, France and China — nations that hold veto power in the U.N. Security Council. Those also happen to be three nations that were pushing to loosen trade sanctions on Iraq. And the same trio later helped keep the Security Council from enforcing its own resolutions against Saddam.

As early as 2000, the United Nations had indications Saddam was ripping off its program. Annan needs to disclose in detail why the United Nations didn't intervene as Sadd-

am's thefts climbed to a suspected \$21 billion. A spokesman for the International Relations Committee, headed by Hyde, says, "If the U.N. continues to stonewall," Hyde's investigators "will find other ways."

That mission is imperative. As we have noted, the abuse of U.N. sanctions gave Saddam money and time. He used the former to fund his outlaw regime, the latter to brutalize and murder his people by the tens of

The United Nations, which views itself as noble, owes the world an explanation of why it tolerated that abuse. And so does Kofi Annan

Mallard Fillmore

BY BRUCE TINSLEY



Officials say flu season off to a slow start

A flu shot is given to a patient last week in Barre, Vt. Across Vermont, 17 clinics gave 12,000 flu vaccines to people at highest risk from the flu.



BY DANIEL YEE
The Associated Press

ATLANTA — The flu season in the United States is off to a slow start, with only Delaware and New York reporting significant outbreaks — a relief to government health authorities, given the U.S. vaccine shortage.

Even so, the "widespread" flu activity in Delaware — the first state to be classified at the nation's highest flu level — is a little misleading. The state meets the designation because confirmed cases of the flu had been found in every county of that state. But the state has only three counties — and six cases in all.

"From the data that we see, things haven't really taken off it's continued flu activity at low levels in a lot of places," said Lynnette Brammer, a flu epidemiologist at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. "It looks like New York, the mid-Atlantic.

area is where things are starting

to pick up, but it's early. At this

point, you can't tell how the season's going to progress."

Nursing home outbreaks in New York prompted the CDC to classify that state as having "regional" flu activity — one step below "widespread." Most other

gional" flu activity — one step below "widespread." Most other states listed "sporadic" flu cases. Although the flu season can

begin as early as October and last through April, most flu seasons do not peak until January. Health authorities have said the slow start has been a relief, because it has given them extra

time to warn people to prepare for the flu in a year that has been marked by a severe flu-shot shortage.
Only 61 million doses are available this season, including a nasal vaccine only for healthy people.

But 98 million people, including 9 million children, need the vaccine, the CDC said.

Each year, the flu hospitalizes about 200,000 people and kills on

Research: Umbilical-cord blood may also save adults

Procedure mostly used on kids with leukemia

BY JANET MCCONNAUGHEY
The Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS — Umbilical-cord blood, now used mostly to treat children with leukemia, could save thousands of adults with the disease each year who cannot find bone marrow donors,

two big studies indicate.
A European study found that those who got cord blood were just as likely to be free of leukemia two years later as those who got marrow. A U.S. study looking at three-year survival yielded results almost as promising.

To Dr. Mary Horowitz of the Medical College of Wisconsin, senior author of the U.S. study, the message is clear: Umbilical cord blood can save adults.

Leukemia patients often undergo radiation or chemotherapy to kill their cancerous white blood cells — a treatment that wipes out their immune systems, too. To restore their immune systems, dotors give these patients an infusion of bone marrow or umbilical cord blood, both of which contain stem cells capable of developing into every kind of blood cell.

Cord blood offers an important advantage over marrow that makes it particularly valuable for use in transplants: Its stem cells are less likely to attack the recipi.

ent's body. That allows a wider

margin of error in matching up

But up to now, cord blood has

been considered suitable only for

children, because each donation

has only about one-tenth the num-

her of stem cells in a marrow do.

The two new studies, published

in Thursday's New England Jour-

nal of Medicine, suggest that is

In the European study, involv-

ing 682 patients, about one-third of both those who got matched

marrow and those who got cord

blood that did not quite match

their own tissues were alive after

two years. In the U.S. study of 601

patients, about one-third of those

who got matched marrow were

leukemia-free after two years

compared with about one-fifth of

those who got cord blood or un-

records from transplants in the

late 1990s and early 2000s.

Both studies were based on

Using cord blood could improve

the odds of getting a transplant for

the 16.000 U.S. adult leukemia pa-

tients each year who cannot find a

compatible marrow donor, said the U.S. study's leader. Dr. Mary

J. Laughlin of Case Comprehen-

sive Cancer Center in Cleveland.

matched marrow.

not a serious impediment

donors and recipients.

Umbilical-cord blood is stored frozen to be used in treatment of life-threatening diseases. Public banks store the blood in addition to commercial storage for personal use

Cord blood needed

DONORS OF STORED CORD BLOOD Public banks Goal

65,000

Private banks More than 75.000

SOURCES: Cord Blood Registry; National Marrow Donor Program; National Cord Blood Center

tant chief of marrow transplantation at Memorial-Sloan-Kettering Cancer Center in New York, said cord blood transplants in adults should be done only as part of studies to look at and improve their effectiveness.

Public cord blood banks where blood drawn from umbilical cords and placentas at birth is kept frozen — need to quadruple their supply to find a match for every leukemia patient who

needs one.
With 4 million births a year in

this country, and most cord blood thrown away, that should not be a problem once more public money comes into play, doctors said.

A federal Institute of Medicine committee is already looking into the best way to set up a national cord blood supply, and is scheduled to complete its report in March

Study: Protein may prevent damage after heart attacks

BY JOSEPH B. VERRENGIA

DENVER — Texas scientists working with mice say a single dose of a common protein appears to protect the heart muscle from extensive damage after a heart attack.

The protein, known as thymosin beta 4, is produced by tissues throughout the body and is already known to help heal skin wounds.

The researchers now are plan-

ning a clinical trial as early as next year in which paramedics would give the protein to heart attack victims in the ambulance to provide heart cells with early protection.

Scientists who did not contribute to the experiment said the protein might work better and easier than trying to isolate and implant stem cells to repair the heart and restore its function.

Thymosin also would not create the same political controversy as stem cell research.

Details of the mouse experi-

Details of the mouse experiment appear in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature.

"This report provides a tantalizing clue toward a workable remedy for this prevailing cause of heart failure," said molecular biologist Michael D. Schneider of the Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, who reviewed the study for Nature. ers at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center in Dallas induced heart attacks in 58 mice by constricting blood flow in a major artery leading to the left ventricle, or the heart's primary pumping chamber.

Half of the mice were injected with a dose of thymosin beta 4, while the rest received a placebo. Forty-five mice survived the procedure and their progress was monitored over a four-week period.

After a month, the mice treated with thymosin showed 60 percent to 100 percent improvement in their hearts' ability to contract and pump blood. That's at least twice the improvement of the other mice, the Texas team reported.

The biggest gains in heart function occurred within one to three days of their "attacks," they said, while the other mice tended to get worse.

The thymosin -treated mice also showed far less scar tissue in their hearts, indicating the treatment prevented death of heart muscle cells when they were deprived of oxygen, while levels of other protective immune molecules were increased.

The heart doesn't normally repair itself, that's one reason why heart attack victims tend to get weaker over time. But precisely how thymosin works remains unclear.

Government approves new drug to treat multiple sclerosis

By Jamie Talan

The federal government has just approved a new medicine for multiple sclerosis that doctors say represents a new treatment approach that will significantly reduce the frequency of disabling episodes.

"This is great news," said Dr. Mark Gudesblatt, director of the MS Care Program at South Shore Neurological Associates in Bay Shore, N.Y. Symptoms of multiple sclerosis vary and wax and wane. About half the 350,000 Americans with MS cannot take existing drugs, such as the beta-interferons, because of side effects.

This new medicine, initially called Antegren and renamed Tysabri, is a so-called monoclonal antibody that targets the immune system and stops the inflammatory process that is key to the disease. It is given monthly through an intravenous drip in a doctor's office.

"This is a completely new way to treat MS," Gudesblatt said. "If

you can hold the attacks down and keep the disabling symptoms away, people can live their lives."

In the most common form of MS, a worsening of neurologic function occurs intermittently.

There is growing scientific acceptance that MS is an autoimmune disorder. The immune system, which usually keeps the body safe from foreign organisms, attacks itself. With MS, the target is the brain and spinal cord.

Scientists at Biogen Idec of

Cambridge, Mass., and Elan Pharmaceuticals of Dublin, teamed up to design a molecule that stops immune cells from traveling into the brain. When immune cells do get into the brain, there is an inflammatory response and this leads to the classic lesions observed in the

The FDA was so impressed with the drug's benefit to patients in a two-year multi-center study that after the first year the approval process was accelerated. Even though the drug soon will be available by prescription, scientists

MS-affected brain.

will continue to treat and follow patients in the studies.

In one study, scientists found the drug reduced the frequency of relayses by 66 percent compared with the placebo. In the second trial, patients taking the MS beta interferon drug Avonex added the experimental drug to their treatment. At the end of a year, those on combination treatment had a significant reduction in relayses.

There were no serious side effects, but some patients developed infections, rashes, depression and gallstones.



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PAGE 16 · Stars and Strip

Snowbirds identified

GAINESVILLE — A new study shows the state is home to 920,000 "snowbirds," seasonal residents who flock to Floridad during winter. They are usually from New York, over 55 and wealthier than retirees who reside in Florida year-round.

Florida, with a total permanent population of 17.5 million, has had difficulty counting in

has had difficulty counting its snowbirds; U.S. Census surveys don't consider the phenomenon of seasonal residency.

In the study by the University of Florida's Bureau of Economic and Business Research, New Yorkers accounted for 13.1 percent of Florida's temporary residents, Michigan accounted for 7.4 percent, Ohio 6.7 percent and Pennsylvania 5.8 percent. Canadians accounted for 5.5 nercent

The study also found that 35 percent of "snowbirds" had incomes of more than \$100,000.

Pardon long overdue

MA ROWLEY — It was 1963, Airman Richard Morse was 19, and he was in Florida, just a few hours away from being declared AWOL from his Air Force base in faraway Biloxi, Miss. When he saw a pink Cadillac with the keys in the ignition, he got in, and away he went.

That decision would land Morse in jail for five months after he ran out of gas and was found by a police officer.

That record was erased earlier this month, when the government formally forgave the 61-year-old electrician for the transgression that hung over his head for so many years, though record otherwise remained spotless.

Then in 1998, Morse — an avid hunter — tried to buy his son a shotgun, and was refused, because of the Brady Bill, which flagged him for his criminal record.

So he set out to clear his name, getting character witnesses to fill out questionnaires. There were interviews with FBI agents.

Finally, this month, in a ceremony at the White House, President Bush pardoned Morse, along with two turkeys named Biscuits and Gravy. He got the news that morning.

Plastic bags may cost

CA SAN FRANCISCO — City officials are considering charging grocery stores 17 cents each for grocery bags to discourage use of plastic sacks.

More than 90 percent of consumers choose plastic bags, which are blamed for everything from clogging recycling machines to killing marine life and suffocating infants. But the fee would also apply to paper bags to help reduce overall

Promoting a healthy environment "means we need to help change people's patterns, and that even means their shopping patterns," said incoming city Supervisor Ross Mirkarimi, who takes office in January. "This is a sensible user fee."

Gun raffle for school

TX LAMPASAS — A local group is holding a school benefit raffle featuring a deer rifle, in hopes of raising enough money



to fence in a portion of a school in

"We're moms using guns as tools to protect our kids," said Marta Elison, a member of the Hanna Springs Intermediate School Parent-Teacher-Student Organization and part of the trio of mothers that put the raffle together. They've set out to raise about \$15,000.

"Bake sales are a thing of the past," she said.

past," sne said.

Lampasas school Superintendent Carlton Tucker said he's gotten only one comment about the propriety of using guns to raise money for a school project.

House hits road

ROCKINGHAM — A one-story modular home skidded along the middle of Interstate 91, blocking traffic and leaving a trail of plywood splinters and styrofoam scraps in its dust.

The home, on its way north to a foundation in Lempster, N.H., was strapped to a Kenworth flatbed before dislodging at around 2 p.m. Monday near Exit 5, according to Vermont State Police.

"No one was hurt, fortunately.
And we're still investigating the cause of the accident," Cpl. David Gerard said as he watched a crane and bucket loader push and lift the damaged home off the highway and onto a new flatbed.

Gerard said the driver of the tractor, Michael Luker, 46, told officers that he was traveling at 55 miles per hour when he felt a "wob-



Twice the fun

Bon-Macy's visual staff workers Chris Sisneros, top, and Carol Mosher are reflected in store windows as they climb ladders to apply red-ribbon decals to store windows in downtown Seattle. bly herky-jerky pull" right before passing the exit ramp.

Once the home became detached, Gerard said its momentum sent it spinning approximately 500 feet forward on the highway, scraping violently against a west side guard rail as it crossed a Route 5 overnass.

Gerard said the only cars on the road at the time were two escort vehicles contracted to monitor the oversize load in transport.

9/11 coins ruled deceptive

ALBANY — A state judge ruled that a company's advertisements for a coin commemorating the Sept. 11 attacks were deceptive, state Attorney General Eliot Spitzer announced Tuesday.

The judge found that National Collector's Mint Inc. committed fraud, false advertising and deceptive business practices when it marketed its "2004 Freedom Tower Silver Dollar" for \$19.95 in television and print ads.

The company claimed the medallions were made of nearly pure silver recovered from Ground Zero in lower Manhattan. But Spitzer said they were made of inexpensive metal alloy plated with about one-ten-thousandth of an inch of silver.

Paddling outlawed

TN MEMPHIS — Memphis city schools will no longer allow paddling as a disciplinary measure.

In a 5-4 vote Monday night, the board of the 118,000-student system decided instead to consider alternative disciplinary plans.

"The real work begins now," said Schools Superintendent Carol Johnson, who proposed a "Blue Ribbon Behavior Initiative" that includes a behavior and social skills curriculum, and sanctions for unruly students including Saturday school, community service and loss of sports-participation privileg-

Memphis' is the largest school system in Tennessee and the 18th largest in the nation. According to the National Coalition to Abolish Corporal Punishment in Schools 2004 study of the nation's 100 largest school systems, Memphis' was one of only nine that still allow paddling.

Suit alleges death faked

HOUSTON — A lawsuit is accusing a bank and 24 other businesses and individuals of helping a Clear Lake man in a \$7 million fraud scheme.

Larry Michael Nixon, 55, has been accused of faking his own death. The man known for his parties and big spending disappeared after his speedboat, "Living Extra Fast," smashed into a barge in August 2003 in the Houston Ship Channel. He was found alive in January in a house in the North Texas town of Weatherforn of Weatherforn

The lawsuit was filed Friday by Old National Bank of Evansville, Ind., and M. Gene Marlin of Greenwood, Ind., a former partner of Niyon

It accuses Moody National Bank and Michael Hazelwood, vice president and loan officer at its Clear Lake branch, of conspiring with Nixon to obtain loans to buy nonexistent cranes.



Beef on the hoof Cattle graze on Jay Robinson's ranch in Clovis, Calif. After several lean years, California cattle ranchers are enjoying their second consecutive year of record beef prices.



Tiny Claus
G-month-old Lindsey Mann is pushed along Main Street by her grandmother Lucy Ywarsky during the Jewett City Snowflake Parade in Griswold, Conn. Mann won 1st place in her category.



Foggy fishing The fog didn't stop these men from fishing at Cedar Creek Lake near Crab Orchard,KY.



Sailing away

Members of the University of Wisconsin-Madison Hoofers Sailing Club get in one last race on a nice Sunday afternoon before winter sets in for good.



Let there be lights Keith Calicott with the Jackson Counsessets up one of the light displays in preparation for the annual Christmas In The Park at Longview Lake in Lee's Summit, Mo. The display opens with more than 100 singers and dancers performing and a fireworks display.



Hanging on
A single raindrop clings to the tip
of a leaf of a Japanese maple tree
in between rain showers in
Birminsham. Ala.



Near miss A ceda

A cedar tree lays across Wayside Drive in Austin, Texas, after falling in heavy rains. The tree narrowly missed a parked SUV as it fell.

■ Whale's diet revealed

AK ANCHORAGE — A Prince William Sound killer whale that washed up dead on Latouche Island in 2003 had scarfed down at least five sea otters — plus 1,000 seabird feathers, bits of seaweed and about nine pounds of rocks.

The belly of the big male, from a unique population in sharp decline, also contained parts of nine harbor seals, some river-other teeth, a sliver of a clam's siphon and an octopus's beak, according to Lori Quakenbush, a biologist with the state's Arctic Marine Mammal Program.

The analysis, summarized in a recent report, gave scientists a rare chance to catalog exactly what one of the ocean's top predators had to eat.

It marked the first time sea-otter remains had been documented inside a killer whale's stomach, according to biologists.

Lawmakers need space

DES MOINES — Officials are trying to find additional work space for a Senate that's split 25-25 among Democrats and Republicans.

The tie means the two parties get equal staff, equal office space and equal status. That's not always easy to arrange and, in some cases, long planned Statehouse renovation may be put on hold.

Libraries protect kids

FL ORLANDO — Libraries in Orange County have barred unaccompanied adults from lingering in the children's areas of its 14 branches, a policy that is among the first of its kind in the nation.

Since Nov. 1, adults without children may select items in the children's section, but they cannot read books or loiter in the department, said Marilyn Hoffman, community-relations coordinator.

Officials with the Association for Library Service to Children said many libraries limit adults' use of computers or bathrooms in the children's departments, but Orange County's policy could be the first in the nation to restrict adults' presence in the areas.

Although Hoffman said no specific incident led to the new rules, Orlando police arrested a man in August after a 15-year-old girl said he tried to molest her at the downtown library.

Law limits scooters

MA BOSTON — A bill that restricts the use of motorized scooters was approved by state lawmakers Wednesday and sent to Gov. Mitt Romney for his signature.

The proposed law requires scooter operators to hold a valid driver's license or permit and wear a helmet. It also mandates the scooters be driven during daylight hours at no more than 20 miles per hour and requires they be equipped with turn signals. Drivers must also obey all traffic laws and stay off sidewalks

The new law would cover all types of scooters, from motorized skateboards to 2-foot miniature motorcycles and motorized tricycles.

Bus drivers go hunting

MORGANTOWN — Hundreds of schoolchildren were forced to find a ride or miss classes Tuesday when bus drivers skipped their routes to go deer hunting for the second straight day

Jake Mullet, assistant superintendent of Monongalia County schools, said the problem was not as severe as Monday, when transportation officials were unable to find substitute drivers for 10 buses and children on those routes were stranded.

On Tuesday, only six routes were unstaffed, affecting about 600 children.

Twenty-one drivers did not show up Monday, Mullet said, "but contrary to published reports, only

one failed to notify us."

Mullet said school officials will
meet with the drivers, and disciplinary action including suspen-

sion is possible.

Chicago to warn, then tow

CHICAGO — The city of Chicago is changing its towing program following complaints from car owners who say they weren't given enough notice before their cars were sold. Chicago will now give vehicle owners 2d days, up from 15, to reclaim to 15-day extensions. The city down will be considered to the control of the control

Hero becomes suspect

SALT LAKE CITY — Two weeks ago, Michael Wayne Wold was a hero as he rescued his wife, two young children and the family dog from their burning second-story apartment.

Now Wold has been charged

with setting the blaze that endangered the lives of everyone living in the eight-unit complex.

Wold, 38, was charged Monday with first-degree felony aggravated arson, punishable by up to life in prison. He has become a suspect in two other fires that are now being reinvestigated — an apartment fire and a delivery-van fire. Both occurred within the past two vears, according to authorities.

Professors unionize

CHENEY — Eastern Washington University professors voted overwhelmingly in
fravor of forming a union that will
represent full- and part-time faculty in collective bargaining with the
administration. Central Washington University faculty were the
of a new collective-bargaining law
for colleges. Professors at Western
Washington University also are organizing a union.

Tuition increase

CHEYENNE — The Wyoming Community College Commission approved a tution hike of about 4 percent at the state's seven community colleges. Under the new rates, effective in the 2005-06 school year, a full-time student who is a Wyoming resident will pay \$684 a semester, up from \$660. Full-time nonresidents will now pay \$2,064 a semester, up from \$1,980.

Stories and photos from wire services

FACES

Incubus singer fined for weapon

Incubus' lead singer pleaded guilty in New York to disorderly conduct and was fined \$250 for carrying a switchblade in his bag while trying to board a plane

Brandon Boyd, 28, said Tuesday he bought the switch-

blade while he was in Amsterdam and brought it back in his suitcase. Later on, he went camping with his family and brought the blade with him in his toiletry bag and forgot

"I had finally found a use for it: Camping," he said. "I totally forgot about it in my bag."

Boyd was stopped U.S. Airways terminal at LaGuardia Airport when baggage screeners spotted the knife in his carry-on luggage.

Boyd was charged with criminal possession of weapon and was released after four hours in a holding cell. The charges were later reduced.



Military families get a cruise

For relatives and friends of U.S. troops serving in Iraq. "The Ellen DeGeneres Show" was the place to be.

Studio audience members, all with a military connection, were surprised with the gift of a free cruise at a taping Tuesday. The



Celebrity Cruises is providing the vacations, available at any time to allow for troops overseas to take part on their return, ac-

cording to a spokeswoman for the show. DeGeneres also joined with the USO to send more than 5,000 care packages to the audience's relatives and friends in Iraq. The episode will be repeated on Thanksgiving on the Armed Forces Network.

2 Live Crew concert causes controversy

A beer garden that usually hosts polka bands may get

fined after a raunchy performance by 2 Live Crew The Nov. 18 rap concert, which featured explicit lyrics, partially nude lap dancing and simulated sex acts, was attended by undercover agents from the California Department of Alcohol and Beverage Control. The Sonoma Valley Sun reported.

The agency may fine the owners of Little Switzerland, which advertises itself as a 1920s style European beer hall, or suspend its alcohol license, according to investigator Scott Warnock

The 2 Live Crew was not specifically targeted, Warnock said.

A show scheduled in nearby Guerneville for Nov. 20 was canceled after the Little Switzerland incident The beer hall's owners. Antonio and Alina Garcia, were

Waits hits stage in London

unavailable for comment.

Offheat rocker-actor Tom Waits returned to the British stage Tuesday for the first time since 1987

The 3,000-capacity Carling Hammersmith Apollo sold out in 20 minutes when tickets went on sale for the only British date on his European tour promoting his new "cubist funk" album "Real Gone.

Music stars including Thom Yorke, Beth Orton and Jamie Cullum were in the crowd to see Waits perform new material, as well as old favorites from his 30-year career. The audience seemed to relish Waits' unique gravely singing voice.

Making fun of his long absence from London and his own age, the 54-year-old singer said: "It's good to see vou

"OK, all right, yeah, 17 years but you look good. The three ages of man: youth, middle age and 'you look good.' "



'What doesn't kill you ...

Ja Rule has taken on 50 Cent and the Feds, now he's back to doing what he does best

By JIM FARRER

New York Daily News

Don't cry for Ja Rule.

into Rule

copies

Yes, the rapper has experienced the kind of year that could make Bill O'Reilly's look enviable. But he insists, "I wasn't out somewhere whining and crying. I just had to make sense of it all. I really didn't understand what came at me.' Especially since it came from so many different direc-

In 2003, this one-time hip-hip giant — who racked up four multiplatinum albums between 1999 and 2002 — found him-self embroiled in the biggest beef this side of Peter Luger. In interviews, mix tapes and official releases, he battled it out with 50 Cent, then the top new rapper around

And he was losing badly.

In February 2003, 50 humiliated Rule on the fastest selling CD of the year, "Get Rich or Die Tryin'." It labeled Rule a fake gangsta who had imitated Tupac Shakur, and who sold out rap by turning it into pop. Powerful associates of 50, including Eminem, Dr. Dre and his G-Unit posse, also ripped

Last November, the embattled rap per finally fired back with his own album of barbs, "Blood in My Eye." On one track, Rule vowed to "go to jail for sending 50 to hell." But the album became the rapper's first commercial disappointment selling fewer than 500 000

At the same time federal agents began an ongoing investigation into Murder Inc., the record company that launched Rule. It accused the label of being funded by drug money Then rumors began to swirl that Rule was splitting with his wife.

years ago, have known each other since high school in Hollis. Oueens, when Rule was known as Jeffrey Atkins. They have three children, ages 1, 3 and

The two, who married four

By early 2004, Rule admits when he'd "go out in the was 'f— you' [from the fans]." He asserts it all

came about be the fans "were misled They were told lies and they believed Now Rule is trying

to set the record straight and revive his badly wounded career with a new album. "R.U.L.E.." which hits stores Nov.

On the CD, Rule, 28, deals with all his struggles.

"I poured out my soul," he says. But he tried not to increase the anger

'I want [fans] to focus on the artist and the music and not the hoopla that tends to distract people," he says.

The music returns Rule to his hit-making style, with more R&B elements provided by singers like Ashanti, Lloyd and R. Kelly. It contrasts dramatically with last year's hard-core "Blood" album

Rule says he got the anger out of his system on that CD. But certain events surrounding its release drew criticism

Rule issued "Blood" one day after giving a highly publicized interview with Minister Louis Farrakhan that was meant to deflate the escalating beef between him and 50. Fans heard only encouraging words from Rule in the inter-

view, but the rapper says he did vent during it.

"They spliced it up," he explains. "In the minister's defense, they did that because he thought it was better for hip hop to show no negativity."

50 Cent didn't show up for his half of the powwow, which Rule says "was disrespectful to the minister, and to hip hop."
But many hip-hop fans wound up blaming Rule for participating in a peace talk one day, then putting out a war-monger-

ing album the next. They called the whole Farrakhan talk a PR stunt. "I never said [the interview] wasn't meant for promotion."

Rule says. He also feels it's hypocritical for listeners to accuse him of watering down hip hop when they made hits of the songs in

question. "Now everyone is doing that style." Rule says, "They're riding the formula.

As for his label's troubles. Rule says its workers have had a hard time dealing with them. Last year, the company changed its name from Murder Inc. to The Inc. Rule claims the switch was not a reaction



to his defense. Rule claims some wanted to, but he told them, "I'm going to do this as a lone sol-dier, to make an even stronger statement about my-

Rule claims the public's attitude toward him also is turning around. He even claims this brutal year had its good side.

"It made me a better artist." he says. "Everyody needs an adversary. What doesn't kill you will only

self

make you stronger.'



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is key to keeping car

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WEDNESDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

AMEX

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)

332.74 7,016.35

2,102.54 1,181.76

39.35 118.47 33.51 105.03 125.42 10.29 87.00 37.50 +.27 +.24 +.05 +.75 +.04 +1.26

+.20

+.82

+18.26 +4.82 +5.44 +4.97 +58.25 +.88 +.41 +.86 +7.64 +11.65 +13.20

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Russell 2000 DJ Wilshire 515.90 10.098.87

+.13 +.15 +.17 -.03 +.14

When do you put money into a high-mileage car? I have a 1991 yota Previa that has 401,000 miles. The car is still in fairly good shape, provided you don't need an air conditioner or working front struts. My question is

how do you decide whether to put repair dollars into

older, high-mileage vehicle? I am considering replacing the front struts and then giving the car to my daughter, who is about to start driving. I figure

if I don't fix the air conditioner it will reduce her desire to drive so much, at least during the Missis sippi summers. - Bill RAY: Well. Bill. my standard answer for when you should stop putting money into a car is: when you fall out of love with it. Be-

cause that's when you stop taking good care of it and subconscious ly let it turn into a junk box. TOM: And my standard answer

is: when your feet go through the floorboards and the buzzards start circling.

RAY: Economically speaking you're almost always better of fixing an old car than buying a new one. Think about it. If the car is otherwise in good shape, even if you spend \$5,000 on a new engine and transmission, that's still a lot less than \$20,000 for a new car, right?

TOM: So, if your need is simply for basic transportation, and your ego doesn't care, then fix the old

> 245.42 5,942.32 Dow Jones Utilities NYSE Composite Amex Index

1,750.82 1,035.28 548.29

NYSE

MOST ACTIVE (\$1 OR MORE)

332.98 7,042.22

RAY: But when a car has this many miles on it - or even a quarter of this many miles, Billthe key issue becomes, is it safe? So, before you give it to your daughter - or even drive it yourself — take it to a mechanic and

have check it out as if you were going to buy it now, as a used car.

TOM: You want to know everything that's wrong with it. For instance, make sure the frame isn't rusted out. Make sure the steercomponents are solid, and that the parts that hold the wheels on are not worn out

RAY: If it passes the basic safety test, and the engine and transmission are OK, then you can feel free to dump some money into it

and give it to your daughter.

TOM: By the way, the front struts are safety items. They're not just for comfort. They're crucial to the car's handling and braking. So you're absolutely right to

RAY: And you're also right to forget about the air conditioner. Teenagers don't need air conditioning. In fact, it's good for them to suffer a little in an old heap. That way, they'll have something to aspire to when they get older. Like my brother's '87 Dodge Colt

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Safety, not mileage, | High stakes this shopping season

Minneapolis-St. Paul Star Tribune

Americans entered last year's holiday shopping season flush with tay-refund checks and proceeds from home re-financings. This year, in the wake of continued job uncertainty, flat wages and higher prices for food and gasoline, many have turned more tightfisted

That could be had news for some retailers, who count on the critical holiday season for the bulk of their annual earnings

The perennially bullish National Retail Federation predicts consumers will spend nearly \$220 billion this holiday season, an increase of 4.5 percent from last Still, that performance would fall short of the 5.1 percent sales gain of 2003.

And gains won't be universal. Retailers who reported strong holiday sales a year ago, such as Target Corp. and Best Buy Co., might struggle to match those difficult comparisons.

Industry observers worry that shoppers who must spend more of their limited income to refuel their cars or heat their homes this winter won't have as much left over to dole out for gifts.

That could hamper the holiday results at industry leader Wal-Mart, which tends to serve less affluent customers

"I don't think there's anything on the horizon that makes you feel overly optimistic or overly willing to spend," said John Clymer, managing director and chief investment officer at U.S. Trust Co.



Chris Eakin, co-owner of Indigo, a Little Rock, Ark., dress shop, talks about plans for the upcoming holiday shopping season Monday. Eakin said he has heard customers saying that they are close to being finished with their holiday shopping and are trying to beat the crowds.

Upscale consumers are expected to spend freely again this holiday season, and gift cards, trendy apparel and technology gadgets promise to draw shoppers to stores and the Internet.

Even without the draw of a new toy fad, consumers are expected to snap up hot, retro fashions, from crocheted ponchos to jew eled brooches to suede boots

"If you've got the right fashion trend, [a specialty chain] could do really well," said Julie Kunkel, Americas director of retail for

Ernst & Young in Columbus, Ohio. The trend that stands to benefit luxury retailers also could boost the results of discounters that sell their own versions of these wares

Target, which tends to draw more affluent shoppers with its exclusive designer brands, probably will perform more in line with the higher-end retailers this holiday

season, industry watchers predict. "I think their ability to differen tiate is really going to stand out," Kunkel said.

David Brennan, a marketing pro fessor at the University of St. Tho mas, thinks higher fuel cost is a big factor for cautious consumers. "I suspect that it has had an impact, and I think it's had an impact at the lower end of the economic spectrum." said Brennan, who is co-director of the St. Paul school's Insti-

tute for Retailing Excellence. Retailers already have begun trying to drive traffic through their stores. Ann Taylor, Victoria's Secret and other chains are trying to position themselves as the must-stop destinations for gift ideas. And many merchants will be offering incentives, such as a gift with purchase, to draw shop pers without resorting to the widespread discounting that has marked recent holiday cam-

Although inventories generally are lean, stores may blink and begin aggressive, margin-pinching promotions if customers wait until the last minute to shop in a season that has a lengthy 29 days between Thanksgiving and Christ-

EXCHANGE RATES

Euro (Nov. 26)	\$1.3
British pound (Nov. 25)	\$1.
Jananese ven (Nov. 26)	101
South Korean won (Nov. 25) .	1.038.
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.37
Canada (Dollar)	1.17
Denmark (Krone)	5.6
Egypt (Pound)	6.2
Euro	\$1.31
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.77
Hungary (Forint)	187.
Iceland (Krona)	64.
Israel (Shekel)	4.37
Japan (Yen)	102.
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.29
Norway (Krone)	6.18
Philippines (Peso)	56.
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.75
Singapore (Dollar)	1.64
South Korea (Won)	1066.
Switzerland (Franc)	1.14
Thailand (Baht)	
Turkey (Lira)	1,28,571.

Thailand (Baht)

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PRECIOUS METALS

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	5.00
Discount rate	3.00
Federal funds market rate .	2.00
3-month bill	
30-year bond	4.85
Sources: The Associated Pr	

ents and Sensibility

Winterize your home

NEW YORK - For those who

live in areas that see such weather, make sure your home is prepared before Jack Frost descends with winter chill, snow, ice and

Damage from winter weather can be costly, reports the Insurance Information Institute. To protect your home:

■ Clean your gutters. Melting snow and ice should be able to flow freely to the ground. If the freezing water's path is disrupted - a condition called ice damming

it may seep into your house. ■ Trim overhanging, damaged or dead tree branches. Accumulation of snow or ice on branches. or even strong winds, can cause weak limbs to break. Ice-covered limbs can be particularly damaging to your home or car - and

dangerous to you. ■ Maintain the temperature.

Keep your thermostat at 65 degrees or higher. Although you can save on your energy bill by holding your thermostat a few de grees lower than you normally might temperatures below 65 degrees will make your pipes vulnerable to freezing.

■ Check your plumbing. Be-fore it gets too cold, inspect your pipes for cracks, leaks or other damage. Learn how to shut the water off so that you can limit the damage in the event of a frozen or burst pipe.

■ Inspect heating systems. Be certain your home's heat sources (including the furnace, fireplaces and stoves) are working properly.

26.75 4.01 3.35 18.05 35.64 27.27 19.01 45.52 10.34 Chg %Chg Div PE Last -- 16 -- 28 -- 28 -- 18 -- 18 -- 18 -- 12 1.44 19 -- 80 23 64.93 42.53 54.12 53.64 54.49 108.05 35.64 Boeing Computer Science Engineered Sup Sy Halliburton Harris Corp. Allied Siona 31 22 Allied Signal L-3 Communi Lockheed Ma NorthrpG s Raytheon Rockwell Intl. Sequa Corp. Texas Instrum

+28.4 -21 +.60 -31 +.35 +19.5 +15.0 +.12 +56.5 +78.1 +7.2 .40 1.00 .92 .80 .66 +1.20 21 20 45 21 36 25 32 18 +39.1 +15.2 +18.3 +32.1 +30.0 +23.1 -16.2 +28.4 +.18 +.94

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KEY MUTUAL FUNDS





EUROPEAN FORECAST

Benelux: Partly to mostly cloudy throughout the day with rainshowers in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 40s to lower 50s.

Britain, Ireland: Mostly cloudy with pockets of fog in the morning becoming partly cloudy in the afternoon. Highs in the upper 40s to mid 50s.

Croatia and Bosnia: Partly cloudy throughout the day. Highs in the mid-30s.

France: Partly to mostly cloudy throughout the day, afternoon rain-showers in the north. Highs in the mid 50s, Saturday lows in the mid 40s. South coast highs in the mid 40s. 60s

60s
Northern Germany: Mostly cloudy to cloudy throughout the day with rain-showers late. Highs in the 40s.
Southern Germany: Partly to mostly cloudy in the morning becoming mostly cloudy to cloudy in the afternoon with isolated a rainshowers late. Highs in the 40s.

Hungary: Cloudy with snowshowers in the morning becoming partly cloudy in the evening. Highs in the 40s. Northern Italy: Partly to mostly cloudy throughout the day. Highs in the low 40s to low 50s.

Southern Italy: Partly cloudy through-out the day. Highs in the 60s. Kosovo: Partly Cloudy throughout the day. Highs in the 30s.

Norway: Cloudy with rainshowers on the south west coastal and snowshowers inland. Inland highs in the upper 20s to low 30s, Saturday lows in the mid teens. South west coast, high in the 40s.

Portugal, Spain: Inland, mostly cloudy becoming partly cloudy in the evening. South and west coast, partly evening. South and west coast, cloudy throughout the day. Inlandinghs in the 50s.

inglis in the 50s.

Turkey: Partly to mostly cloudy with isolated rainshowers in the morning becoming partly cloudy in the afternoon, with isolated thunderstorms in the east. Highs in the mid 40s to upper 50s.

For current weather watches, warnings, and 5-day forecasts go to the USAFE Operational Weather Squadron home

https://ows.sembach.af.mil http://ows.public.sembach.af.mil

SUN & MOON

New mo





Check our Relocation Guide every Saturday to find Realtors at your new station.



Horoscope

The full moon in Gemini inspires an atmosphere that's withy and charming with a perfect blend of sass and fun. Social interaction is injected with giddiness and bright communication. Mental expansion is the goal. The danger is in revealing too much or getting into conversations that are really over our hoads. But how else are we

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(November 26). You allow yourself to be guided to-ward success this year, realizing that resistance is fulfile. Reunite with a loved one next month, and you can let old baggage drop, too. February brings a solid relationship with someone who shares your love of adventure. A breakfrough in your work helps you get out of debt in March. Leo and Capricom are favored.

ARIES (March 21-April 19).

You're not required to know it all, but do take hold of your own mission. This inspires confidence from your team. By the way, taking a day trip in a group of more than four is not advised, as it's too chaotic and exhausting.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20). Life challenges you to be the leader. If you're responsible for others,

It you're responsible for others, they're really studying you now. Moms and dads need to consult one another in order to present children with a united front.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21). You don't have win the prize to learn

the lesson. But in order to get an "A" for effort, you must show plenty of enthusiasm and willingness. Relationships have the potential to be too exciting! Retreat from the drama.

CANCER (June 22-July 22).

The thing about hanging around flinty people is, as irritating as they can be, they often spark something by telling the truth. What was unconscious becomes conscious. Mull over your realizations privately.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). You'll be wrapped up in the business of making everyone feel at home.

Don't be tricked into thinking you've got to spend a lot to get a lot. Everything can be kept to a reasonable budget with a little ingenuity.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22). When you feel marvelous, you act

marvelous, and that's just what the impressionable people around you need to see right now. Examples of how to live life in a celebratory way are few and far between

LIBRA (Sept.

23-Oct. 23). Someone has started a job and left it for you to finish! It's annoying — until you realize that all this taking care of business makes you deadly attractive! All

you deadly attractive! All the attention you're getting fluffs your ego.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21).

The smart, creative people claim you as one of their own. If you've been sitting on an idea, get off of it today. Let it go, or make it happen. Lucky connections with a Cancer or Pisces will speed things along.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec.

21). Potential partners — for companionship, business or love abound. However, you may be too sluggish and sleepy to notice. Physical exercise will help set you back to high-functioning mode.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan.

19). Matters of commerce get your energy up, and you'll be driven to find the best deal. Strong hunches lead you to the right doors. When someone younger gives you his or her admiration, be gentle with the cit.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18).

There are probably better things to do with your time than to pursue elusive love — but somehow, those other things just don't seem as fun. Your passionate nature is stirred up by anything you can't have.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20).

You're not exactly in an easy-to-please mood. You crave the more expensive luxuries such as fine dining, dancing and entertainment. However, something as inexpensive as a bubble bath is a decadent, heavenly event.

Creators Syndicate

Peanuts



























and Rover







PAGE 22 · STARS AND STRIPES · MIDEAST EDITION · Friday, November 26, 2004



BUT ALAS, IT WAS ONLY A FLING

THERE YOU ARE!

BWFPPSWOSO CIBM 1 W PAS

DBGWSG, HP XHIAP CMSRR

OHCFCPSG

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: AT OUR ANNUAL TANKSGIVING DINNER THIS YEAR. THANKSGIVING YEAR, EVERYONE INSISTED ON TALKING TURKEY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: R equals L

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Mike Argirion

90 minutes for a table

WHAT THE HEAVY-

SET DINERS HAD

AT THE

RESTAURANT.

Now arrange the circled letters to

JINGLE

3

Snooping kid creates problem

Dear Abby: I'm a single mother, raising a 14-year-old daugh-ter, "Cheryl." Recently, Cheryl has started going through my things while I am not at home. A couple of times she has found things of a sexual nature - pictures and marital aids that I had thought were Dear Abby well hidden.

How do I address these matters without discussing the content in depth? We have discussions about a lot of things, but I must admit I'm embarrassed about

However, I want to discuss this with Chervl before she tells someone about what she found and gets misinformation

- Blushing in Chicago Dear Blushing: Your daughter is old enough to understand the concept of privacy - and that includes not going through your things without permission, or discussing your private life with her contemporaries. Since you

absence, keep your personal

items under lock and key. If Cheryl questions you about the items she found, explain to her that they are sometimes used by adults. If she wants to know more, answer her auestions

honestly. And while you're at it, be sure our daughter knows that if she has further auestions in the future. she's welcome to come to you.

Dear Abby: I'm having trouble dealing with my Aunt "Marge She disapproves of the fact that my husband, "Keith," is 40 and I'm 33. Aunt Marge says I

should have married someone or no more than a year my age or two older - because SHE likes men her own age.

Keith earns enough so that I can stay at home with our two children. Aunt Marge says I'm selfish to make him carry the financial burden alone. (Neither

Keith nor I feel there's anything selfish about it.)

Aunt Marge stops by unexpectedly a lot, usually at night. If I'm wearing my robe and nightgown, she demands to know why. Then she asks why I took my shower so long before bedtime. She also constantly criticizes the way I wear my hair.

Abby, she's a good person in other ways, but she has always had a habit of criticizing and being too quick to judge. Do Keith and I have reason to be offended, or should we just accept that she is who she is, ignore her, and not say anything?

— Getting Fed Up in California

Dear Fed Up: If no one has pointed out to Aunt Marge that it's rude to drop by unannounced and give unsolicited advice about personal grooming, now is the time. It won't change her, but perhaps it will cause her to stop for a moment and think.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles CA 90069. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at http://www.uexpress.com/dearabby Universal Press Syndicate

Unscramble these four Jumbles one letter to each square. to form four ordinary words.



WOLTAL

RAPTYN

form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon

room, he called it a - VILE INN

(Answers tomorrow Jumbles: QUEUE LINEN CLOVEN Answer: When the fiddler was shown a dirty hotel

No intimacy with older husband

Dear Annie: Thirty years ago, when I married my husband "Jeff" I couldn't foresee any major problems with marrying a man who was 25 years older. I was then 26, and he was 51. Now I am 56 and Jeff is 81. After completely ignor-

ing me sexually for the past 15 years, Jeff suddenly announced that he is unhappy. The main cause of his complaint is our complete lack of physical intima-

'.' I'd like to know what sand pile Jeff has had his head in all this time. I reminded him that I begged him to go to marriage counseling 15 years ago when he became impotent after prostate

Until impotency curtailed his activities, Jeff also was quite a skirt chaser. There have been times when I've been ready to throw him out. I care for Jeff, but no longer in any romantic way. In the meantime, I am very lonely

- Loveless in Louisiana Dear Louisiana: One or two



to incipient dementia or physical problems? He might benefit from a complete checkup. Second, please consider counseling for YOU. It would be useful if Jeff came with, but it is not an absolute necessity Marriage includes a promise to make every effort to get through the

rough times.

Dear Annie: I can't believe defended "Montana Woman," who complained that older men have too much ear hair

As a 75-year-old man, I have to defend our naturally occurring excess ear hair. First of all, I am not going to start poking scissors into my ears to deal with the problem, and my wife can't help because she has carpal tunnel syndrome and can't even handle a pencil. I do make feeble attempts with the pop-up trimmer on my electric razor, but my eyes are not

good enough to see what I am doing. So my ears have to wait to be trimmed by my barber when he trims my eyebrows and nose hairs. This I do on a monthly basis when my hair needs cutting, but at \$25 a pop, I'm not going to do it more frequently

— Bill from Connecticut

Dear Bill: A lot of hairs men (and women who care about the subject) wrote to us about this. Here are two views

From Round Rock, Texas: I read your column every single day and had to comment. As a 46-year-old man. I am lucky not to have nose hair, but I do have ear hair. There is not a gizmo made that removes ear hair without pulling, yanking or tearing it by the roots. Believe me, I've tried everything. Thank God my wife thinks the small amount of hair bordering my ears is sexy. I'm lucky to have her. SEXY. I IT ILLEAY, DI TAVE HEI.
Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy
Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime
editors of the Ann Landers column.
Please e-mail your questions to
anniesmailbox@comcast.net, or write
to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndi-cate, 577° W. Century Blvd., Sulter 700,
Los Angeles, CA 50045.

Family Circus



"I was REALLY thankful yesterday. I didn't have to eat dinner at the card table."

THE MOST IMPORTAN' FATHER CAN DO FOR HIS CHILDREN IS OVETAEIR







Great Alaska Shootout Championship

Fed Cup

At Krylatskoe Ice Stadium

Surface: Carpet-Indoor WORLD GROUP Semifinals Russia 3, Austria 0

Singles
Svetlana Kuznetsova, Russia, def. Yvonne
Meusburger, Austria, 6-1, 6-1.
Anastasia Myskina, Russia, def. Patricia
Wartusch, Austria, 6-0, 6-0.

Anastasia Myskina, Russia, def. Yvonne Meusberger, Austria, 3-6, 6-3, 6-1. Svetlana Kuznetsova, Russia, vs. Patricia Wartusch, Austria

Svetlana Kuznetsova, Russia, vs. Patricia Wartusch, Austrio Doubles
Elena Likhovtseva and Vera Zvonareva, Russia, vs. Yvonne Meusberger and Patricia Wartusch, Austria er. S. Spain of Singhe Tatlana Golovin, France, def. Anabel Medina Garrigues, Spain, 6-3, 6-3.
Nathalie Dechy, France, Sanchez Lorenzo, Spain, 6-2, 6-4.

Sanchez Lorenzo, Spain, 6-2, 6-4.
Nathalie De Reverse Single, Anabel Medi-na Garrigues, Spain, 6-3, 6-1.
Tatiana Golovin, France, def. Marta Mar-rero, Spain, 6-3, 6-4.
Marion Bartoli and Emilie Loit, France, def. Marta Marrero and Virginia Ruano Pascual, Spain, 7-5, 6-7.

Men's Division I tournament

SCOREBOARD

AFN-TV & Radio

Friday

AFN-Sports, 9 a.m.—College basketball: ennessee women at Texas. ennessee women at rexas.

AFN-Sports, 11 a.m.—College basketball:
reat Alaska Shootout, Utah vs. Washing-

Great Alaska Shobout, Otan vs. Washing-ton. AFN-Sports, 3 p.m.—College football: West Virginia at Pittsburgh (dld). AFN-Sports, 6 p.m.—College football: Colo-rado at Nebraska. AFN-Pacific, 8:30 p.m.—College football: icific, 8:30 p.m.—College football: AFN-Pacific, 0.30 pm. LSU at Arkansas.

AFN-Sports and Radio, 9:30 p.m.—College football: Texas A&M at Texas.

AFN-Sports, AFN-Radio, 1 a.m.—College hasketball: Preseason NIT championship game, Wake Forest-Providence winner vs. Michigan-Arizona winner. AFN-Atlantic, 1:30 a.m.—College football: Air Force Football With Fisher De Berry. AFN-Atlantic, 2 a.m.—NBA: Miami at Detroit.

roit. AFN-Sports, 4 a.m.—College baskett tall of Fame Tipoff Classic, Maryland AFN-Pacific, 4:30 a.m.—NBA: Sacramento

ARN-Pacific, 4:30 a.m.—NBA: Sacramento Lt. Lakers. 5 a.m.—College basketball: ARN-Sports, 9 a.m.—College football: Such Arn-Sports, 9 a.m.—College football: Such at Arkarias (did.) a.m.—College football: Arzona at Artzona 5: (did.) p.m.—College basketball: Virgina at Virginia Tech. ARN-Sports, 130 p.m.—College botsball: Arzona 5: (did.) p.m.—College basketball: Virginia at Virginia Tech. ARN-Pacific, 7 p.m.—College basketball: Virginia Tech.

cuse at Boston College, 200 p.m.—College football:
Georgia Tech at Georgia.

AFN-Sports, 10 p.m.—College football: Cincinnat at Louisville (jip).

AFN-Pacific, 10:30 p.m.—College football:
Oklahoma St. at Texas Tech (joined in pro-

AFN-Pacific, 1:45 a.m.—College football: boise St. at Nevada. AFN-Sports and Radio, 2 a.m.—College ootball: Notre Dame at Southern Cal.

All times Central European Time; dld indi-cates delayed broadcast. All listings are subject to change. Some radio broadcasts not available in all areas. Visit www.myafn.net for more information.

Pro football

NFL injury report

NEW YORK — The updated National Foot ball League injury report, as provided by the

Ball Ledgue ringur yesport, as provided by the Learn Tubble . Sunday J. Learn Lord . Sunday J. Learn Lord . Sunday J. Learn Lord . Sunday . Sunday . Sunday Sunday . Sunday . Sunday . Sunday . Sunday Sunday . Sunda

Brady (right shoulder); Qu ann monta vaga-shoulder).

BUFFALO BILLS (4-6) AT SEATTLE SEA-HAWKS (6-4) — Bills: DOUBTFUL: CB Troy Vin-cent (knee). QUESTIONABLE: WR Josh Reed (knee). Seahawks: OUT: Eb Chad Brown (knee). LB Tracy White (hamstring), QUES-TONABLE: QB Matt Hassebbeck (high). PROSABLE: WR Darrell Jackson (ankley): DI Roshadd Moore (shoulder), DE Chike Okeadro

Rashad Moore (shoulder); DE Chike Okeafor (ankle); CB Bobby Taylor (Ince); Okeafor (ankle); CB Bobby Taylor (Ince); CLEVELAND BROWNS (3-7) AT CINCINNATI BENGALS (4-6) — Browns: OUESTIONABLE: WR Andre Davis (toe); QB Jelf Carcis (right WR Andre Davis (toe); QB Jelf Carcis (right Suggs (toe), Bengals POUBTRU (25 Rashad Bauman (Achilles), OUESTIONABLE: CB Deltha O'Neal (elbow); DE Carl Powell (knee), PROGABLE: T Willie Anderson (knee): LE Caleb Miller (anhle); RB Chris Perry (Adoaleb Miller (ankle); RB Chris Perry (abdo-i); TE Matt Schobel (groin); WR Kelley hington (shoulder); RB Kenny Watson

Washington (snoulder); RB Keftily watcon (Call Micsonville Jaculass (e.g.) At Minneson Jackson (e.g.) At Minneson A Visitinas (e.g.) - Japuaris (DUESTIONABLE) (B Byron Lettwich (Krifee); TE George Wrighster (back). PROBABLE: CB Juran Bolden (groin); C Vincent Manjuwal (ankle); DT Marcus Stroud (knee), Vilsingsi (DIT: LB Raonall Smith (concussion), DioBarte: WR Randy (abdomen); T. Nat Dorsey (shoulder); RB Mewelde Moore (ankle).

GROGHORN, T. N.R. (DOTSP. (TROUBER), RE-MANA DOLPHINE, 13-) AT SAM PRANCISCO 9855. (1-9) — Dolphins: OUT. 18 Tony Bus-Strong, 10-10 (1-10) (1-10) (1-10) (1-10) (1-10) STRONG, OUESTIONABLE; GR. A. FERSEY STRONG, OUESTIONABLE; GR. A. FERSEY STRONG, FORDARD, STRONG, STRONG, STRONG, STRONG, PORTABLE; S. YERCHIAI SER STRONG, FORDARD, STRONG, S

OUESTIONABLE CB Jimmy Williams (toe)REGRANDE DI TON Brown (Souther) AFTA
FALCOMS (8-2) — Saints: DOUBTFUL: WR
FALCOMS (8-2) — Saints: DOUBTFUL: WR
Khchael Lewist (Jankle); ILB Berrick Rodgers
(hamstring); G Kendyl Jacox (Janee); CB Milke
Kockerule (Incel»— PROBABLE: WR Jee Horn
(elbow), Falcoms; QUESTIONABLE: R6 Jackin
Gelbow), Falcoms; QUESTIONABLE: R6 Jackin
G

Úlmer (ankle), NEW YORK JETS (7-3) AT ARIZONA CARDI-

NALS (4-6) — Jets: OUT: QB Chad Pennington (right shoulder). QUESTIONABLE: WR Jerrivright Shoulder), QUESTIONABLE: WR Jérricho Cotchery (hamstring); LB Jason Glenn (forearm); LB Victor Holson (ankle); S Jon McGraw (groin), PPGBABLE: RB Curits Mar-tin (knee). Cardinals: OUT: RB Troy Ham-brick (foot). QUESTIONABLE: RB Emmit Smith (ankle), PROBABLE: DE Bert Berry (ttilph); LB Karlos Dansby (neck); DT Darrell Dockett (groin); S Adrian Mayes (ham-strino).

PHILADELPHIA EAGLES (9-1) AT NEW YORK
GIANTS (5-5) — Eagles: OUT: G Artis Hicks
(Appeal) DE Jorges McDougle (Appeal) DOUBT (knee): DE Jerome McDougle (knee): De Jerome McDougle (knee): LB Nate Wayne FUL: RB Reno Mahe (ankle): LB Nate Wayne (hamstring). QUESTIONABLE: CB Roderick Hood (hack): DT Corey Simon (groin/ankle).

FILL SR peros Nather, Candols J. L. Baster Waves

FOR STATE AND ST

/iegmann (thigh). "TAIM" BAY BÜCCAMERS (4-6) AT CAROLI-MA PANTIRES (5-7) — Buccamers OUT: SE MA PANTIRES (5-7) — Buccamers OUT: SE Corey by (knee), PROBABLE LE Right Burns Amarstring). ES Mario Edwards (chrest), the Genes), Pantibers OUT: LE Dan Morgan (con-clusion), John Massack (alther the Kin Margan (andie); EK Kemp Rasmussen (neck), PROBA-BOLD (1998), PROBABLE (1998), PRO

Rondal Moorenead (snouer); Li Will Will Moorenead (snouer); Li Will Will Moorenead (snouer); Takas (4-6). Titlans: UIT: T Braid Hopkins: ANS (4-6). Titlans: UIT: T Braid Hopkins: Cheller's (100); 5 Tank Williams (Innee); CB Andre Woolfolk (elbow). QUESTIONABLE: LB Andre Woolfolk (elbow). QUESTIONABLE: South Research (100); T Ford Miller (ankle); LB Garrahan (ft)(qh); T Ford Mill Coleman (shoulder); LB Jay Foreman (shoulder); LB Jay Foreman (shoulder); LB Jay Foreman (shoulder); RB Tony Hollings (hamstring); DE Gary Walker (foot) DPORABLE: LB Anhyan Beek

); LB Jamie snarper (snoulder). HINGTON REDSKINS (3-7) AT PITTS-I STEELERS (9-1) — Redskins: OUT: LB Arrington (knee); LB Mike Barrow BURNET STATES AND STAT

RB Verron Haynes (knee).

OAKLAND RAIDERS (3-7) AT DENVER BRONCOS (7-3) — Paiders: DIT: TE Courtney (1-3) — Raiders: OUT: TE Courtney Anderson (knee): WR Johnnie Morat (foot): LB Travian Smith (knee): G Ron Stone (knee): QUESTIONABLE: RB Tryone Wheatley (foot): WR Alvis Whited (hamstring): Broncos (UP): The the tills: (call): DE Trevor Pryce (lower leg): P Micah Knorr (knee): S John Lynch (back).

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College football

AP Top 25 schedule

Thursday, Nov. 25 No. 21 West Virginia at Pittsburgh

Friday, Nov. 26
No. 6 Texas vs. No. 22 Texas A&M
No. 14 LSU at Arkansas
No. 18 Arizona State at Arizona
Saturday, Nov. 27
No. 1 Southern Cal vs. Notre Dame
No. 7 Louisville vs. Cincinnati

No. 1 Southern Cat vs. Notre Dame No. 7 Louisville vs. Cincinnati No. 8 Georgia vs. Georgia Tech No. 10 Boise State at Nevada No. 11 Virginia Tech vs. No. 16 Virginia No. 15 Tennessee vs. Kentucky No. 17 Boston College vs. Syracuse No. 23 Oklahoma State at Texas Tech No. 24 UTEP at Tulsa

College basketball

AP men's Top 25 fared

Wednesday
Wake Forest (4-0) beat Providence
7. Next: vs. No. 18 Arizona, Friday.
Kansas (2-0) did not play. Next: vs. Neva-

20. Wisconsin (2-9) did not play. Next: at 20. Wisconsin (2-9) did not play. Next: vs. Charleston Southen, Friday. 22. Wosthen, Friday. 22. Washington (1-9) did not play. Next: vs. Utah, Thursday. 23. Florida (2-9) did not play. Next: vs. Providence, Saturday. 24. Gonzaga (3-0) beat Idaho 88-74. Next: at No. 5 illinois, Saturday.

at No. 5 Illinois, Saturday. 25. Memphis (4-1) did not play. Next: vs. No. 13 Maryland. Friday.

Wednesday's men's scores

Boston U. 66, Fordham 51 Columbia 53, Long Island U. 49 Hofstra 79, La Salle 69 Lehigh SR, Sacred Heart 52 Pittsburgh 33, Robert Morris 59 Story Brook 68, Army 54 West Virginia 72, Duguesne 69

West Virginia 72, Duguesne 69
Auburn 92, Nicholls St. 73
Pavidson 103, Maine-Farmington 33
Florida St. 86, Shawnee St. 65
Grambling St. 80, Texas Coll. 58
LSU 95, New Orleans 79
N. Kentucky 105, Thomas More 83
N. Kentucky 105, Thomas More 83
South Alabama 52, Samford 95
South Carolina 62, Winthrop 59
South Miss. 65, 55 Louislana 62 Southern Miss. 65, SE Louislana 62 Southern Poly St. 115, Grace Bible 80 Tusculum 85, Lincoln Memorial 72 UCF 97, Puerto Rico-Mayaguez 52 Valdosta St. 110, Southeastern, Fla. 47 Virginia 77, Appalachian St. 60 MIDWEST

Bemidji St. 68, North Dakota 57 Bowling Green 63, III.-Chicago 51 Cincinnati 76, N. Iowa 70, 2OT Doane 87, Midland Lutheran 74 Earlham 75, Bluffton 64 ndlay 94, Salem International 73 nois 85, Oakland, Mich. 54 Illinois 85, Oakland, Mich, 54 Ind.-Pur-Indipls, 91, Huntington 81 Kansas St. 60, Denver 55 Kent St. 76, Texas A&M-Corpus Christi 58 Minn.-Crookston 90, Augustana, S.D. 88 Montana-Western 80, Jamestown 70 North Central 92, Knox 85 SW Missouri 92, Knox 85 SW Missouri 93, Knox 85

North Jesus S. T. E. N. Illinois 63 Taber 69, Kanass Newman 68 Wis.-Eau Claire 77, Manchester 63 Wis.-Oshkosh 65, St. Norbert 51 Wittenberg 75, Capital 46 Southern 75, Capital 46 Louislana-Mort 75, Bayrs 61 Texas Southern 75, Bayrs 61 Texas Southern 75, Bayrs 61 Texas Sauthern 75, Bayrs 61 Fax West 75, Bayr

79-67. Nott: vs. No. 18 Arizona, Friday.
2. Annas (2-9) did not play, Nest: vs. Reval3. Georgia Tech (2-0) did not play, Nest: vs.
4. Georgia Tech (2-0) did not play, Nest: vs.
4. Oyacuse (4-0) did not play, Nest: vs.
5. Ilinois (3-0) best Oakkand, Mich. 85-54.
Nest: vs. No. 34-50-20, Starting, Nest: vs.
7-10-20, 10-20, Starting, Nest: vs.
7-10-20, 10-20, Starting, Nest: vs.
7-10-20, 10-20, Starting, Nest: vs.
7-10-20, Starting, Nest: vs.
7-10-2 4. Tesas (1-1) did not play, Next vs. No. 1 5. North Carolina (2-0) did not play, Next-vs. No. 3. Villanova at Las Vegas, Sabruday, 1. Standard (4-0) beat Louisiana-Lafayette Southern Califordia, 100 did not play, Next-1. Standard (4-0) beat Louisiana-Lafayette 5. ConnecCut. (1-1) did not play, Next-1. Sabrudard (1 at Trous (3:1) beat Tennessee 95-70. Next-vs, Coppin State, Monday, 16. Pittsburgh (2-0) Beat Robert Morris 83-99. Next-vs, Loyola, Md., Saturday, 17. North Carolina Statle (3-0) did not play. March Carolina Statle (3-0) did not play. 18. Arizona (3-1) beat Michigan 61-69, OT. Next-vs, No. 1 Wake Forest, Friday, 19. Alabama (3-0) beat Alaska-Anchorage 19. Alabama (3-0) beat Alaska-Anchorage 20. Wisconsin (2-0) did not play. Next: at Þennerrine, Saturday.

"IT. Olivo State (5-1) did not play, Next: vs. Next: at No. 7 stanford, Sunday, 10-0 did not play, Next: at No. 7 stanford, Sunday, 11. Mechigan State (5-0) did not play, Next: 14. Mechigan State (5-0) did not play, Next: vs. 14. Vanderbilt (2-0) did not play, Next: vs. 15. Purduel; 1-0 did not play, Next: vs. Arkansas at Corpus Christi, Fexas, Thursday, Next: vs. Illinois State at disahamas, Friday, Next: vs. 11. Rust (1-0) did not play, Next: vs. 17. Rusters (1-0) did not play, Next: vs. 17. Rusters (1-0) did not play, Next: vs. 17. Rusters (1-0) did not play, Next: vs. 18. State at use (1-0) state (1-0)

South Dakota State at US Virgin Islands, Thursday. 18. Minnesota (3-1) did not play. Next: at Creighton, Sunday.

18. Minnesota (3-1) did not play, Next: us. 19. Deplaul (3-0) did not play, Next: us. Northwestern, Saturday, 19. Deplaul (3-0) did not play, Next: us. Northwestern, Saturday, 21. Oklahoma (2-0) did not play, Next: us. 21. Oklahoma (2-0) did not play, Next: us. No. 21. Sul di Boulder, Collo, Friday, Next: us. No. 21. Sul di Boulder, Collo, Friday, Next: us. No. 21. Sul di Boulder, Collo, Friday, Next: us. No. 21. Sul di Revisione (2-0) did not play, Next: us. No. 21. Sul di Next: us. Next: us. No. 21. Sul di Next: us. Next: us. No. 21. Sul di Next: us. Next: u

25. Arizona (2-1) did not play. Next: at BYU, Saturday.

Wednesday's women's scores

EAST American U. 67, Mount St. Mary's, Md. 52 Boston College 74, Quinniplac 43 Bucknell 86, Comell 63 Bucknell 86, Comell 63 Bucknell 86, Cornell 63 Hofstra 71, Colgate 70 Niagara 84, Vermont 76 Syrácuse 61, Manhattan 45 SOUTH DePauw 65, Thomas More 56 Furman 76, Gardner-Webb 69 Georgia Southern 86, Savannah Louislana Tech 88, Mississippi Nicholi St. Es, New Orleans 55 S.C.-Alken 68, Limstone 64 South Florida 82, Army 88 sh St 68

Wofford 86, S, Vi

Wolford 86, S. VI MINWEST Bradley 83, III.-Chicago 67 Cincinnati 62, Ball 51, 58 Edgewood 70, Belgit 58 Indiana 51, 83, E. Illinois 56 Kansas 55, Sacred Heart 8 Kansas 55, Sacred Heart 8 Minnt-Moorhead 70, Valley City 51, 55 Northwestern 64, W. Michigan 60 Wright 51, 98, Ind.-Pur.-Ft. Wayne 76 SOUTHWEST S Houston 80, Creighton 63 Tulsa 71, SW Missouri St. 67 FAR WEST

BYU 81, Nevada 64 83, Clemson 52 TOURNAMENT

Boise St. 63, Portland St. 51 Colorado St. 88, Nebraska-Omaha 64 Championship
Stanford 67, Louisiana-Lafayette 47
Third Place
E. Washington 82, Alaska-Anchorage 69 Tennis

Louisville 82, Stanford 67 Seventh Place BYU 77, Chaminade 56
Guardians Classic
Championship

Championship Creighton 65, Ohio St. 63, OT Third Place Houston 57, Missouri 55 Preseason NIT Semifinals Semifinals Arizona 61, Michigan 60, OT Wake Forest 79, Providence 67

AP women's Top 25 fared

Wednesday
No. 4 Texas, Thursday
No. 4 Texas, Thursday
2. LSU (5-0) did not play, Next: sx No. 22
Maryland at Boulder, Colo, Friday,
3. Georgia (2-0) did not play, Next: vs. No. 1
Raha at Monoluli, Friday,
4. Texas (1-1) did not play, Next: vs. No. 1
Tennessee, Thursday.

College soccer

Third Round
Saturday, Nov. 27
John's (11-5-4) at UCLA (14-3-2)
www.Mexico (17-1-1) at Virginia (18-4-0)
ilsa (12-6-3) at Southern Methodist Wake Forest (14-5-1) at Virginia Common-wealth (12-5-2)

vealth (12-5-2)
Sunday, Nov. 28
Ohio State (12-6-2) at Duke (16-5)
Creighton (14-4-1) at Maryland (16-5-1)
UC Santa Barbara (18-2-1) at UNC-Greenssoro (19-2-1)
Boston College (13-4-2) at Indiana (15-4-1) Women's Div. I tournament

Fourth Round Friday, Nov. 26 Portland (20-3-0) at Notre Dame (22-1-1) Washington (17-4-1) at Princeton (18-2-0) Saturday, Nov. 27 UCLA (16-6-0) at Ohlo State (19-3-3) Illinols (16-5-2) at Santa Clara (17-4-2)

Deals

Wednesday's transactions BASEBALL

American League
CHICAGO WHITE SOX—Adreed to terms h LHP Kevin Walker on a one-year conract.
CLEVELAND INDIANS—Agreed to terms
with RHP Bob Wickman on a one-year con-

tract.
MINNESOTA TWINS—Agreed to terms with C Mike Redmond on a two-year contract.
National League
ARIZONA DIAMONDBACKS—Named Bob Gebhard assistant general manager, Mike Al-

Gebhard assistant general manager, Mike Al-drete hitting coach, Carlos Tosca third base coach, and Brett Butler first base coach. LOS ANGELES DODGERS—Agreed to terms with Jim Tracy, manager, on a two-year conect.
PITTSBURGH PIRATES—Acquired OF Anto-lio Sucre from the Montreal Expos for OF J.J.

National Basketball Association CLEVELAND CAVALIERS—Activated F Luke ackson from the injured list. Placed F Sasha

aviovic on the injured list.

105 ANGFLES CLIPPERS—Activated C Chris SAMPLES LIPPENS—ACTIVATED CHIRLS
WASHINGTON WIZARDS—Named Mitchell
Butter director of ZAPANS—And Jonesen.
National Football League
ARIZONA CARDINALS—Placed RB Troy
Hambrick on injured reserve. Signed RB
Damien Anderson.
BALTIMORE RAYENS—Signed RB Jamel
White. Placed RB Musa Smith on injured re-

serve.

CLEVELAND BROWNS—Placed OT Ryan
Tucker on injured reserve. Signed FB Kris
Briggs and LB Andre Sommersell to the practice Squad. Waived DB Christian Morton and LB Chris Clemons from the practice squad.

DALLAS COWBOYS—Released CB Lenn
Williams. Signed TE Sean Ryan from the prac

MIAMI DOLPHINS—Signed OB Jason Gar-MIAMI DOLPHINS—Signed US JASON USETFITTH STATEM STEELES—Re-signed W.R.
CASTLE SEAHAWIX—SIGNED W.R.
SATTLE SEAHAWIX—SIGNED W.R.
WITH SIGNED BY THE SEAHAWIX—SIGNED W.R.
TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS—Placed DT Anthony McGarland on injured reserve. Signed
Signed DT Keith Wright to the practice squad.

Signed DT Keith Wright to the practice squad.

WASHINGTON REDSKINS—Placed LB Mike Barrow on injured reserve. Signed LB Chris Clemons from Cleveland's practice squad.

NFL Europe
NFLE—Granted an expansion franchise to

Hamburg, Germany.

COLLEGE

NORTH CAROLINA STATE—Announce
men's basketball F Adam Simons will trai
fer after the fall semester.

TANK MCNAMARA





Bucs, A's close on Kendall Dodgers, Tracy agree on two-year contract

BY RONALD BLUM The Associated Press

NEW YORK - All-Star catcher Jason Kendall would go from the Pittsburgh Pirates to the Oakland Athletics for left-handers Redman and Arthur Rhodes in a trade that was close

to being finalized Wednesday A baseball official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the deal was near completion. And Kendall's agent informed Pirates general manager Dave Littlefield that the 30-year-old California native would waive his no-trade clause to play for the A's, a person close to Kendall said, also on condition of anonymity.

Damian Miller, who caught for Oakland last season, was in Milwankee for a news conference to announce his \$8.75 million. three-year contract with the Brewers. He took a physical, but the news conference was canceled because Milwaukee's team doctors had scattered for the holiday Thanksgiving and weren't available to read the results of an MRI exam on his right shoulder.

"I can't tell you whether he's failed or passed the physical, general manager Doug Melvin "because we haven't finished the evaluation.

In other free-agent news, closer Bob Wickman decided to stay with the Cleveland Indians, agreeing to a \$2.75 million, one-year



contract. And the Minnesota Twins got a veteran to back up Joe Mauer, agreeing to a \$1.8 million, two-year contract with catcher Mike Redmond

In a minor trade of outfielders, the Pirates acquired Antonio Sucre from the soon-to-be Washington Nationals for J.J. Davis.

Kendall, an All-Star in 1996, 1998 and 2000 hit 319 with three homers and 51 RBIs last season. He is due to make \$10 million in 2005, \$11 million in 2006 and \$13 million in 2007, the final three seasons of the \$60 million deal he signed in 2001. The sides were dissussing how much of the deal Pittsburgh would assume, the official said.

Redman went 11-12 with a 4.71 ERA and Rhodes was 3-3 with nine saves and a 5.12 ERA for

Oakland last season. Miller would be an upgrade offensively and defensively for Milwaukee, which got a combined .215 batting average with eight home runs and 47 RBIs out of Chad Moeller and Gary Bennett last season

A native of West Salem, Wis., Miller hit .272 with 25 doubles, nine home runs and 58 RBIs in

110 games with Oakland, and committed only one error in 751

"With the Thanksgiving holiday, our team doctors are spread all over the place. One's on an air-plane." Melvin said. "We still may be able to sign Damian Mill-We just don't want to jump in until we've finished our medical evaluation. We hoped to an-nounce the deal. We just ran out

Wickman, who missed 2003 following reconstructive elbow sur-gery, returned to the Indians in July and went 0-2 with a 4.25 ERA in 30 appearances, finishing strongly. The 35-year-old right-hander converted his last 12

save chances. Having filled one of their biggest needs, the Indians are now expected to pursue a quality er. Matt Clement, Jon Lieber, Russ Ortiz and Matt Morris are among those drawing interest.

"Certainly, this should give us the ability to be aggressive in the starting market," general manager Mark Shapiro said. Redmond, who played the past six-plus seasons with Florida, bat-

ted .256 with 15 doubles, two homers and 25 RBIs in 246 at-bats last year. The Twins are no longer interested in Henry Blanco, who filled in capably at the position when Mauer tore cartilage in his - and wound up playing in just 35 games when recovery from surgery took much longer

LOS ANGELES - Los Angeles Dodgers manager Jim Tracy agreed Wednesday to a two-year contract following negotiations that took longer than expected.

After Tracy guided the Dodgers to their first playoff berth since 1996, general manager Paul DePodesta said he honed an agreement would be in place before baseball's general manager meetings began Nov. 9.

"Regardless of how long it takes, the most important thing is you end up with something that both sides can live with." Tracy said Wednesday during a conference call. "I think that's where we got to. However long it takes to get it done, so he it. "I didn't really feel like it was

ever going to be a situation where I wouldn't be manager of the Dodgers. To me, it's now behind us and I'm looking forward to the job in front of us and the task at

Tracy said he was satisfied with the agreement, adding that agent Alan Hendricks felt good about the headway the parties made in the past few days

"They moved a little bit," Tracy said. "They moved far enough for me to feel like this is where I want to be, this is where I should be at this time in my mana. gerial career. Everyone is happy on both ends. I was very confident we would find a middle ground that both sides could live

with " Tracy's previous deal expired at the end of October.

The Dodgers had been the only major league team without a manager under contract.

"It never got contentious or any-thing like that," DePodesta said 'It really ended up just being a normal course of negotiation. Jim wanted to be here, we wanted to have him back. We all just felt like it was a matter of time. No one felt like there was a sense of

gency. DePodesta said he told Tracy in August he wanted him to re turn as manager.

"I didn't want Jim worrying about it down the stretch," DePod-esta said. "That was really the start of it all. Everybody expected that at some point we would get it

The Dodgers were 356-292 during Tracy's first four years, in-cluding 93-69 last season, their best record since 1991. They lost to NL champion St. Louis 3-1 in the first round of the playoffs.

"I feel like we've done some tremendous things over the last four years." Tracy said, "There's years," Tracy said. "There's more to be done, there are more mountains to climb.'

Tracy hopes his coaching staff returns intact, but added that bench coach Jim Riggleman might not be back because of other opportunities.

Russia advances to Fed Cup final against France

MOSCOW - French Open champion Anastasia Myskina and U.S. Open winner Svetlana Kuznetsova won singles matches Thursday, sending Russia past Austria and into the Fed Cup final defending champion France Myskina rallied past Yvonnes

Meusburger 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 to give Russia an un heatable 3-0 **S**ports lead in the best-of-five

briefs semifinal. Kuznetsova then routed Daniela Kix 6-1, 6-1

France swept Spain 5-0 behind singles victories by Nathalie Dechy and Tatiana Golovin. Dechy put the French ahead 3-0, defeating Anabel Medina Garrigues 6-3, 6-1. Golovin then stopped Marta Marrero 6-3, 6-4 and the doubles team of Marion Bartoli and Emelie Loit downed Marrero and Virginia Ruano Pascual 7-5, 6-2

"It's the best result we could imagine," Dechy said. "We won all the matches in straight sets and didn't spend much time on the court. It's a good preparation for the final? France heat Russia in the semi-

finals in Moscow last season. France will be playing in its third final, having won the previ-

ous two. Russia is in the fifth final The Russian team faces a deli-

cate matter after Myskina said she will quit the Fed Cup squad if Maria Sharapova joins the squad next year. Myskina says she



Russia's Anastasia Myskina hits a return during Thursday's 3-6, 6-3, 6-1 victory over Austria's Yvonne Meusburger in their Fed Cup match.

doesn't like the Wimbledon champion's father.

Sharapova has never played for the team, and wasn't invited because of her tight calendar, cap-

tain Shamil Tarpischev said. Myskina said her problem is with Sharapova's father and coach Yuri

"I feel his behavior is totally incorrect, simply rude. I don't want to be around people like him,' Myskina said.

Barnes leads Australian Onen SYDNEY, Australia - Kurt

Barnes held a two-stroke lead Thursday after shooting a 6-under-par 65 in the first round of the 100th Australian Open.

Australians Greg Chalmers, Richard Green and Rod Pampling opened with 67s at The Australian Golf Club, the site of the inaugural tournament in 1904

Barnes, the 23-year-old son of a

coal miner, had nine birdies, a bogey and a double-bogey on the par-4 third.

"You can't treat this game too serious, otherwise sane." Barnes said. otherwise you go in-Two-time champion Aaron Bad-

deley was three strokes back along with fellow Aussies Stuart Appleby and Anthony Gilligan and Colombia's Camilo Villegas Baddeley, who made a 25-foot eagle putt on the par-5 fifth, won as an amateur in 1999 at Royal Sydney and retained the title as a pro in 2000 at Kingston Heath

Corey Pavin, the 1995 U.S. Open champion, shot a 73. Fellow Americans Bob Estes and John Morse also had 73s, and former U.S. Amateur champion Ricky Barnes shot a

Police inspect Turin 2006 documents

TURIN, Italy - Police inspect ed documents at the headquarters of the organizing committee of the 2006 Winter Olympics on Thursday as part of an investigation into possible financial irregularities

Organizing chief Valentino Castellani said his committee, known as TOROC, has acted "in full observance of the law" and was not being accused of wrongdoing.

The action came while Castellani was in Lausanne, Switzerland, for a progress report to the International Olympic Committee. TOROC and Italian authorities sought to play down initial reports the committee's offices were raided.

Investigators said they exam-

OC's bookkeeping, and also confirmed that for now there was no accusation of any criminal of-

Police also inspected documents at the Rome offices of Italy's national Olympic committee as well as at its regional office in Turin.

The "offices have not been searched, nor has there been any seizure," the committee said, describing the request to see the documents as "absolutely nor-

Purdy leads in Korea JEJU, South Korea - PGA

Tour player Ted Purdy shot a 7-under 65 on Thursday to take a one-stroke lead over Ireland's Padraig Harrington and South Ko-rea's Yang Yong-eun after the first round of the Shinhan Korea Golf Championship.

Purdy, a playoff loser this year in the MCI Heritage who also finished second in the B.C. Open. had seven birdies in a bogev-free round in windy conditions on the Jein-Jungmun course. rington had two eagles, three birdies and a bogey. Tom Pernice Jr and Brain

Bateman opened with 68s, and 2002 PGA champion Rich Beem was another stroke back in the first PGA Tour-sanctioned Chal-

lenge Season event in Asia. Mark Calcavecchia, Trevor Immelman and European Ryder Cup player Miguel Angel Jimenez topped a group at 70, Nick Faldo opened with a 74, and South Korean star K.J. Choi shot a front-nine 42 en route to a 76

RACING STRIPES

A WEEKLY LOOK AT MOTORSPORTS

NASCAR shifted gears in 2004

Playoff format brought new level of drama to Nextel Cup

BY JENNA FRYER The Associated Press

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — The most popular driver opened the year with a win in the biggest race of them all, and the most hated driver closed the season by taking home the only trophy that really matters.

Somewhere between Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s victory at the season-opening Daytona 500 and Kurt Busch's championship-winning performance in the finale, a new era began for NASCAR.

The 2004 season was one of radical changes: First-year chairman Brian France introduced a new series sponsor and a playoff-structured new points system, and he continued to push his sport to the West Coast by shifting races out of the South

It was also a season of sadness: Rick Hendrick, one of the most powerful car owners in NASCAR, lost friends, family and employees when his company plane crashed en route to an Oct. 24 race, killing all 10 aboard.

The tragedy marred what should have been one of the most successful seasons in NASCAR history. The points race was the closest ever and wasn't decided until the last lap of Sunday's race at Homestead-Miami Speedway.

But when Jeff Gordon and Jimmie Johnson failed to give Hendrick the title, it was impossible to mask the disappointment felt across the garage.

"It put a whole different meaning on the championship for us. We wanted it for Hendrick Motorsports," said Gordon, who finished third in the standings. "We knew how much it would mean for us to stand up on that stage in New York and honor those guys as champions, Jimmie or myself, which ever one could get it done.

"It's a disappointment no matter what, knowing that we had an opportunity to do something really special like that."

In the end, Busch beat Johnson for the title by eight points. Gordon was 16 back.

don was 16 back.

It wasn't a popular ending, with Busch, the series outcast, hoisting

the first Nextel Cup trophy.

Busch doesn't really fit in with his rivals — he looks as if he should be playing with a chemistry set, not wrestling with a 3,400-pound stock car — and he has a propensity to use big words albeit incorrectly. That's made him somewhat of a misfit throughout the garage.



Kurt Busch, often the target of jeers from NASCAR fans, proved his

But mostly, Busch isn't Junior. The overwhelming fan favorite,

Earnhardt gave his supporters hope this would be the year he would win his first championship. He won the Daytona 500 — the one race his late father truly cherished — in dominating fashion.

The next nine months didn't go as well for him:

- He admitted intentionally spinning at Bristol to get a caution that would help his struggling car.
 - He was seriously burned

44 This year has been one of the better

years for competing for a championship. ... There are

more positives than negatives.

> Jimmie Johnson Nextel Cup runner-up

when he crashed a sports car in

when he crashed a sports car in an extracurricular event that caused him to lose ground in the points race.

■ He cursed in a Victory Lane interview at Talladega in October, costing him 25 points and creating an uproar over NASCAR's off-track policing.

In the end, it was all too much to overcome, and Earnhardt finished a distant fifth in the stand-

Fans were angered by that, too. Under the former points system, used for more than two decades, Junior would have finished third, behind Gordon and Johnson

But after years of ho-hum

points races, France overhauled the system and created a 10-driver, 10-race playoff. Fans hated what they considered manufactured drama, but with five drivers eligible to win the title in the season-ending race, France was thrilled

Although some things didn't change — the guy who won the most races (Johnson, with eight victories) — still didn't win the title.

But in the end, Johnson had stopped criticizing the system after a year of pointing out its faults.

"This year has been one of the better years for competing for a championship," he said. "I look at that and I think that that is going to be good for the years to come. There are more positives than negatives.

"I think that in the end it will be better for everybody."

The points race was just one of the many major changes France ushered in.

He introduced Neytel as the

new series sponsor after Winston ended its longtime partnership, and he settled a lawsuit seeking a second race for Texas Motor Speedway by shaking up the schedule

France gave Texas a spring race by closing North Carolina Speedway, then continued to shift to the West by ending the Southern 500 at Darlington Raceway in favor of a second race in Phoenix.

France also lifted the liquor advertising ban, opening the door for companies like Crown Royal, whose logo will be displayed on Busch's car beginning next year.

He approved the green-whiteacheckered flag finish after fans nearly rioted at Talladega in April because Gordon was awarded the win for being in front of Earnhardt when a cation came out with three laps to go.



Dale Earnhardt Jr.'s season got off to a promising start with a victory in

When the fans littered the tack with beer cans and other debris, France knew he had to allow racing to the finish.

But he also allowed a petty battle to brew through the summer over a bottle of PowerAde atop winners' cars. It was a conflicting sponsorship agreement between several drivers and NASCAR, and when the Gatorade-linked drivers refused to be photographed with the Coca-Cola associated blue PowerAde bottle, a

Johnson, Gordon, Ryan Newman and Matt Kenseth won 12 of the first 22 races and all knocked the bottle off their cars. NASCAR told them to stop, then fined Johnson when he covered the bottle instead.

battle of wills broke out

1. Kurt Busch

5. Matt Craftor

Gordon caused a flap a week later for never even driving to Victory Lane after his win in Indianapolis, a perceived intentional avoidance of the PowerAde bot-

By September, the oversized bottle seemed to shrink and wasn't so noticeable anymore in Victory Lane.

The changing of the guard also began, with Mark Martin and Rusty Wallace announcing that 2005 will be their final seasons, and Terry Labonte scaling back

to 10 races next year.

It's the first of an expected wave of retirement, with 40-somethings Ricky Rudd, Dale Jarrett, Sterling Marlin and Kyle Petty

Sterning Marini and Kyle Petty also nearing the end.

But right behind them is a wave of youngsters, led by rookie of the year Kasey Kahne, who finished second five times this sea-

Busch Series champion Martin Truex Jr. and runner-up Kyle Busch will be full-time Cup drivers next season, filling seats no longer open to aging drivers.

6 326

6 180

NASCAR final driver standings

3. Jeff Gordon	6,490	8. Matt Kenseth	6,069
4. Mark Martin	6,399	9. Elliott Sadler	6,024
5. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	6,368	10. Jeremy Mayfield	6,000
	Busch	SERIES	
1. Martin Truex Jr.	5,173	6. Jason Keller	4,088
2. Kyle Busch	4,943	7. David Green	4,082
3. Greg Biffle	4,564	8. Ashton Lewis Jr.	3,892
4. Ron Hornaday Jr.	4,258	9. Kenny Wallace	3,851
5. Mike Bliss	4,115	10. David Stremme	3,738
COAL	4 4 5 6 5 5 5 6 7	DUCK SERVE	

NEXTEL CUP SERIES

6.506 6. Tony Stewart

6.498 7 Ryan Nes

CRAFTMAN TRUCK SERIES 1. Bobby Hamilton 3.624 6. David Starr 3.298 2. Dennis Setzer 3.578 7. Jack Spragu 3.167 3. Ted Musgra 3 554 8 Travic Kvanil 3 152 4 Carl Edwards 3 493 9. Steve Park 3.138

10. Chad Chaffin

NFL scoreboard

American Conference						
East						
	w	L	т	Pct	PF	PA
New England	9	1	0	.900	264	171
N.Y. Jets	7	3		.700	212	165
Buffalo	4	6	0	.400	180	183
Miami	1	9	0	.100	140	210
	South					
Indianapolis	7	3	0			
Jacksonville	6	4	0	.600	166	181
Houston	4	6	0	.400		
Tennessee	4	6	0	.400	186	212
	North					
Pittsburgh	9	1	0	.900		
Baltimore	7	3		.700		
Cincinnati	4	6		.400		
Cleveland	3	7	0	.300	177	208
	West					
Denver	7	3	0	.700	233	167
San Diego	7	3		.700	285	190
Kansas City	3	7		.300		
Oakland	3	7	0	.300	182	270
		-				

National Conference



Chicago at Dallas Sunday's games

Tennessee at Houston Washington at Pittsburgh Philadelphia at N.Y. Glant: Cleveland at Cincinnati San Diego at Kansas City Tampa Bay at Carolina Jacksonville at Minnesota New Orleans at Atlanta Buffalo at Seattle N.Y. Jets at Arizona Miami at San Francisco. Miami at San Francisco Baltimore at New England Baltimore at New England
Oakland at Denver
Monday's game
St. Louis at Green Bay
Sunday, Dec. 5
Arizona at Detroit
Buffalo at Miami

Houston at N.Y. Jets Minnesota at Chicago Tennessee at Indiana Cincinnati at Baltimor cincinnati at Baltimore San Francisco at St. Louis Atlanta at Tampa Bay Carolina at New Orleans New England at Cleveland Denver at San Diego Kansas City at Oakland N.Y. Giants at Washington Green Bay at Philiaglashia

Green Bay at Philadelpl Pittsburgh at Jacksonvi



Mondays in Stars and Stripes and on Oconus.com

Falcons hunting for fourth banner

The Associated Press

FLOWERY BRANCH, Ga. Championships are a rarity

around these parts.
The Atlanta Falcons have three banners hanging from the roof of the Georgia Dome - two for division titles, another for their lone NFC crown in 1998

Barring a major collapse, they'll have to make room for another

With six games to go, the Fal-cons (8-2) lead the NFC South by four games. They can clinch the division by beating New Orleans on Sunday and Tampa Bay the following week.

"We'd be lying if we told you we didn't look to see where we tackle Chad Lavalais said after practice Wednesday. "But we're not consumed by it. We know where we're at and how we got there.

The Falcons had been in the league 15 seasons when they won their first division title in 1980 Eighteen years passed before they claimed their second, a springboard to the only Super Bowl appearance in franchise his-

Now, No. 3 is right in their grasp

"Sure, winning the division is one of our goals," cornerback Kevin Mathis said. "But that's not our ultimate goal. Our ultimate goal is to be in the Super Bowl."

Coach Jim Mora who has done a masterful job of reviving a team that went 5-11 last season, refuses to acknowledge the Falcons' comfortable position in the standings.

He hasn't talked about it with the players and doesn't see any need to bring it up.

"I don't believe there's anyone in this organization who feels like we've accomplished a dang thing," Mora said, "We have not assured ourselves a playoff berth. We have not wrapped up the division. We have not gotten ourselves a first-round bye. We have not gotten ourselves a home game. We have not gotten home-field advantage. All we've done is win enough games to be in

first place with six to go. Still, the Falcons have put themselves in an enviable position.

the next five games against teams with losing records - New Orleans (4-6), Tampa Bay (4-6), Oakland (3-7), Carolina (3-7) and New Orleans again. Atlanta closes the season at Seattle (6-4), but that could be a game that mainly determines playoff positioning

The Saints are more focused on a wild-card berth than trying to catch the Falcons.

"There's an opportunity for us, but it's going to be tough," New Orleans quarterback Aaron Brooks said. "We would have to run the table and receive some help along the way.

With a solid hold on the divi-sion, the Falcons can work toward getting a first-round bye in the playoffs. They need to finish in the top two of the NFC, currently holding the second snot behind East-leading Philadelphia (9-1). No other team is within two games of Atlanta. The Falcons last playoff appearance came two years ago, when they sneaked in as a wild card. They became the first visiting team to win a postseason game at Green Bay beau Field, but lost the following week at Philadelphia.

With that in mind, tight end Alge Crumpler hopes the Falcons get to play at least one playoff game at the Georgia Dome. Two would be even better.

"I know how our crowds have been this season. If we can get some home games in the playoffs, just imagine what kind of excitement there would be," Crumpler said. "If anyone gets complacent, I'll be the first one to make sure it doesn't happen."

Crumpler also is aware of another little tidbit that might work in the Falcons' favor if they win their division.

Since realignment, the NFC South has produced two straight conference champions - Tampa Bay in 2002 and Carolina last vear

"I've not really thought about this season in terms of our long-term history," Crumpler said. "But I know the last couple of years, our division winner has had great success getting to the big game. It seems like there's a mojo running through our division. We'd like to be part of it.



Bucs wide receiver Joe Jurevicius pulls in a touchdown pass last Sunday. The soft-spoken receiver is excited about his 3-month-old daughter and eager to help the Buccaneers turn their season around.

Jurevicius enjoying his second chances

By FRED GOODALL The Associated Press

TAMPA, Fla. - Joe Jurevicius kneels in the end zone before each game, writes his late son's first initial in the turf and reminds himself how fortunate he is to have a second chance to be a father and a football player.

Tampa Bay's soft-spoken receiver is back after being sidelined nearly a year by injuries He's excited about his 3-month-old daughter and eager to help the Buccaneers turn their season around.

'It's very gratifying. You realize how much you love this game when you're away from it," Jurevicins said "On one hand you realize you

won't be able to play forever. On the other hand, you want to play as long as you can. When you have injury after injury, stemming from one injury, it plays with your mind." An extremely private guy who

briefly opened his life to the pub-lic when his son was born with a neurodegenerative disease during Tampa Bay's Super Bowl run two years ago, Jurevicius was poised to have a breakout season in 2003 before a torn knee ligament shut him down in the sec-

When he tried to come back too soon, he hurt the knee again and had surgery. Six months later, he developed a back problem that also required surgery and forced him to sit out the first six games of this season on the re-serve/non-football injury list.

He never doubted he'd return and be a productive player again. The one thing I've learned is ve got to remain positive.

Things don't always go your way," said Jurevicius, who adjusted the way he walked after knee surgery and is convinced that's what created his back problems. "For whatever reason, I didn't

have a roadblock, I had a building in my path. I had to be patient. ad to work around things an stay focused on what I wanted to do - and that was to get better and get on the field.'

The Bucs (4-6) are 3-1 since he returned, and the 29-year-old is coming off a five-catch, two-touchdown performance in a 35-3 rout of San Francisco. The TDs were

his first since he scored two in last year's season opener at Phila delphia.

PAGE 27

He celebrated one against the 49ers by giving the ball to an Air Force captain standing behind the end zone. He did a little jig after the other TD, but kept the ball with plans with paint it pink and give it to his daughter, Caroline, born during training camp.
"To me, my family is my priori-

ty. It's not football, family. It's family, football," Jurevicius said. "But I'd be lying if I said one didn't motivate the other.

The initials "MWJ" are tattooed on the receiver's left biceps memory of his late son, Michael William, who was born during the playoffs in January 2003. The infant died a few weeks after the Bucs beat Oakland in the Super Bowl.

Last Sunday, he felt his son was with him when he scored against the 49ers.

"I've got an angel upstairs," Jurevicius said. "Michael's my man.
I always write the initial of his first name in the end zone before each game just so he can come for a ride with his dad '

The Bucs hope last Sunday's performance is a sign of things to come. A big, physical receiver with a knack for gaining yards after the catch, Jurevicius has 11 receptions for 149 yards in four

And he's excited about the prosnect of being more involved in the offense down the stretch.

Jurevicius hurt his knee in a col-lision with teammate Mike Alstott, who injured his neck on the play and later had surgery for a herniated disk. The six-time Pro Bowl fullback got a close-up view of what the receiver went through to get back on the field.
"A lot of guys would have quit,"

Alstott said But thoughts of his children

wouldn't let him, Jurevicius said. The receiver noted doctors originally told him and his wife that Michael would only live 72 hours. Instead, the infant battled his illness for more than two months.

"He never gave up. There are certain lessons to be learned from that," he said. "A lot of them, I'll never let out. A lot of things that happened are personal, and I'm going to keep them that way."



Dolphins discuss Williams

Team split on star's return

BY GREG BEACHAM The Associated Press

SAN FRANCISCO - Just when the Miami Dolphins thought they were done talking about Ricky Williams, news of the wayward running back's imminent return to the NFL nut him back in his former teammates

thoughts Wednesday. And not all of them were happy to be thinking and talking about whether Ricky will run for the Dolphins again.

Even during a week away from South Florida, the Dolphins couldn't get away from the specter of Williams, who stunned the team with his abrunt retirement before training camp. His departure precipitated Miami's freefall into its first losing season in 16 years, leading to coach Dave Wannstedt's resigna tion two weeks ago.

Defensive end Jason Taylor was among Williams' harshest critics when the running back walked away. When asked how Williams might be welcomed back to Miami. Taylor es sentially bit his tongue.

"I don't know. Everybody is different," Tay lor said. "Everybody has different opinions of the situation. If it happens, then we'll deal with it then, but everyone's reaction is going San Francisco hotel this week preparing for Sunday's game against the 49ers, Williams was taking holistic medicine classes at a school about 180 miles northeast of the Bay Area - and his lawyer was working out a deal to get Williams back in the league.

According to his lawyer, Williams hopes to move from the retired list to the suspended list Dec. 5, when he'll serve his four-game suspension for violating the league's substance-abuse rules.

After that, he would be under contract to Miami again - and the Dolphins would be forced to decide whether to welcome back a player who quit on them, or work out the best trade possible for a talented player with serious drawbacks to potential suitors.

Or release Williams.

Given the Dolphins' dismal season and nonexistent running game, most of the players feel they're in no position to pass judgment on Williams - and not all of the Dolphins share Taylor's animus

"As a teammate, I'd welcome him," defen-sive end David Bowens said. "I'm cool with it. First, he owes an apology. It's about his teammates. (But) I'm always a forgiver. It's something for Rick and the guys upstairs. It's obviously going to be after the season."

The Dolphins never found an effective re-



Ricky Williams, leaving a college for holistic medicine in Grass Valley, Calif., will begin serving a four-game suspension on Dec. 5, clearing the way for his return in 2005.

placement for Williams, who rushed for 3,225 vards in two seasons with Miami

Sammy Morris has started the past five games and is averaging 3.6 yards per carry, while Travis Minor is hobbled by the sprained ankle that sidelined him for five weeks. Morris missed the Dolphins' practice on Wednesday with a rib injury.

Three players back up Clarett's claims

Three former Ohio State football players backed up some of Maurice Clarett's allegations that players received improper benefits while on the team, ESPN.com reported Wednesday night.

Carolina Panthers wide receiver Drew Carter, former OSU linebacker Fred Pagac Jr. and former Buckeyes fullback Jack Tucker said in a story posted on the Web site that they knew of tutors who completed homework for players. Carter said he was overpaid for working odd jobs.

Ohio State athletic director Andy Geiger and sports information director Steve Snapp did not immediately return messages left by The Associated Press late Wednesday night

But Snapp told ESPN.com he thought the story was "an-other example of selective journalism on (ESPN's) part and an attempt to run an unbalanced story

Pagac's father, Fred Sr., was an assistant coach at Ohio State for 19 years. Tucker was an Academic All-Big Ten pick.

"There are always people who will help you and cross the line," Pagac was quoted as saying in the report. "I've personally seen it happen. You had tutors who if you asked them for help writing a paper they'd end up writing it. You'd go in and ask help about specifics, and then it would end up getting written."

Carter told ESPN.com that he "got paid quite a bit of money for sweeping, cleaning up stuff, doing like very, very light work."

In an interview with ESPN The Magazine earlier this month, Clarett accused coach Jim Tressel, his staff and school boosters of arranging for him to get passing grades, cars, and thousands of dollars. including for bogus summer

The school denied claims, and some former players told ESPN they never saw any wrongdoing in the Ohio State program. Carter, Pagac and Tucker told ESPN.com they didn't believe Tressel set up Clarett with vehicles.

Clarett led Ohio State to the national championship in 2002 as a freshman and hasn't played football since then. He was suspended for lying to investigators during an NCAA probe of allegations that he received improper benefits from a family friend.

49ers' Erickson says his job is secure

SANTA CLARA, Calif. - With a 1-9 record and persistent rumors about his job security. San NFL

Francisco 49ers coach Dennis Erickson said Wednesday that team management has

briefs sured him his job is safe for 2005 When asked if he had been told he would be back next year. Erickson said: "Oh, yeah. I mean

there's no question about that. I've said, we have a long-term plan and we go ahead and go from there. But he immediately added:

"People can change their mind, you know that. A lot of people change their minds."

Heading into Sunday's home game against the Miami Dolphins, Erickson is 8-18 since getting a five-year, \$12.5 million contract before the 2003 season. His NFL record is 39-51 (433) including a four-year stint with the Seattle Seahawks

The 49ers' struggles this year have much to do with the team's overhauled roster. General Manager Terry Donahue bid farewell to several veterans last offseason as part of the team's plan to handle the salary cap and, with that in mind. Erickson's bosses have determined the coach is not to blame for what could be the worst 49ers season in history

Owner John York, through spokesman Sam Singer, confirmed Erickson's version of his job status "That's correct. There have

been zero discussions otherwise Singer said.

During the weekend, reports resurfaced linking Erickson to the vacancy at the University of Washington. Quoting an anony-mous source, profootballtalk.com said Erickson was headed for Washington and that the only question was whether he would finish the season or leave early to get a head start on recruiting for the Huskies

Erickson has vehemently denied interest in the Washington opening, saying, "I'm going to finish this thing and do what I came

A spokesman from the University of Washington said that the school would not comment on its coaching vacancy.

Leftwich will start vs. Vikings

JACKSONVILLE. Fla. Byron Leftwich got the go-ahead Wednesday from coach Jack Del Rio to make his first start in three weeks when the Jaguars play at Minnesota on Sunday.

Leftwich has missed the past two games with a knee injury.

"He was able to work in full pads and moved around pretty well," Del Rio said following Wednesday's workout. "He threw the ball accurately and made good decisions. He basically picked up where he left off a little bit, so we're glad to see that

Holcomb gets nod for Browns

BEREA. Ohio - Cleveland Browns quarterback Kelly Holcomb will get his first start of the season Sunday against the Cincinnati Bengals, and injured Jeff Garcia will be, at best, third on the

"By Sunday, he could be avail-able to be a third." Browns coach Butch Davis said of Garcia. "A lot will depend on how he responds to treatment

Davis said he didn't consider and that he prefers to bring him along slowly.

Garcia is listed as questionable with a strained right rotator cuff suffered during Sunday's loss to

NFL injury update njuries to prominent NFL players, fol-ved by team's prognosis. (See Page 24

Ravens: RB Jamal Lewis (sprained inkle) out for Sunday.

Redskins: I R Jamal Lewis (sprained inkle) out for Sunday. or season. Seahawks: QB Matt Hasselbeck (leg)

questionable. Steelers: WR Plaxico Burress (ham-string) out for Sunday. Titans: RB Chris Brown (toe) question-

the New York Jets and was unable to practice Wednesday. Garcia said his shoulder is too weak and sore to throw

"Whether I play on Sunday is fully a question mark right now, Garcia said. "I have sprained and strained some of the ligaments and muscles around the joint in my right shoulder. It has basicalcaused a weakening effect and until those muscles and ligaments strengthen and tighten up, it's iust one of those things where the strength is not even near 100 per-

Raiders WR Porter intends to test free-agent market

ALAMEDA, Calif. - With his team almost certain to miss the playoffs for a second straight vear and with plans to opt out of his contract at the end of the season, Oakland Raiders wide receiver Jerry Porter intends to get in the marketing business His product? Himself.

"Every game is a free-agent audition for me," said Porter, who leads the Raiders (3-7) in receptions and yardage this season. "I mean. I'm trying to go out and put the best product I can put out

A second-round draft choice in 2000. Porter spent his first four years in the NFL as a well-paid inderstudy to Tim Brown and Jerry Rice. But when Brown was released in the offseason and

there on the field."

Rice was sent packing to Seattle during a midseason trade, the door was open for Porter to assume the No. 1 spot.

He has done that to a certain extent with 38 receptions for 523 yards and one touchdown. At that pace, Porter will finish with career-high marks for catches and vardage.

Dolphins LB Thomas doubtful; QB Feeley plans to play

SAN FRANCISCO - Miami Dolphins linebacker Zach Thomas is doubtful for their upcoming game against the 49ers after missing practice Wednesday with a hamstring injury Thomas, a five-time Pro Bowl

selection, leads Miami with 131 tackles. He has made at least 11 tackles in every game Quarterback A.J. Feeley, who

played through a painful injury to his back and buttocks last week in Seattle, is listed as questionable, but plans to play with the help of pain-blocking injections.

Sage Rosenfels is the backup,

and the Dolphins signed veteran Jason Garrett on Wednesday. "I'm surprised how well it

went," Feeley said after Wednesday's practice. "It all worked out right. Everything was crisp. There's no question about (starting Sunday). ... I feel really bad for (Fiedler). There's no one on this team who has more respect for him than I do."

Jets GM gets extension

HEMPSTEAD, N.Y. — New York Jets General Manager Bradway received two-year contract extension Thursday that will keep him in the organization through 2007.

Bradway was unavailable for comment Thursday but released a statement in which he said, "We id a foundation here we be lieve will be successful for years to come

College football schedule/statistics

Weekend schedule

Friday, Nov. 26 MIDWEST MIDWES I
Colorado (6-4) at Nebraska (5-5)
SOUTHWEST
I SU (8-7) at Arkansas (5-5) SOUTHWEST
LSU (8-2) at Arkansas (5-5)
Texas A&M (7-3) at Texas (9-1)
FAR WEST
Arizona St. (8-2) at Arizona (2-8)
Saturday, Nov. 27
EAST
James Madison (9-2) at Lehigh (9-2)
Syracuse (5-5) at Boston College (8-2)
Lafayette (8-3) at Delaware (8-3).

SOUTH Memphis (7-3) at South Florida (4-5)

Memphis (7.3) a 2001H

Amenbis (7.3) a 2001H

Ascisoniville S. 6) at 8 furmin (9.2)

Wake Forest (4-6) at Maryland (4-6)

Hamplon (10-2) at William & May (9-2)

Florida AdM (7-7) at Fla International (2-6)

Florida AdM (7-7) at Fla International (2-6)

East Carolina (2-9) at Virginia Tech (4-9)

Virginia (2-2) at Virginia Tech (4-7)

Amenbis (2-7) at Massaspia (2-7)

Cincironal (6-4) at Louizville (8-1)

Alac (7-3) at Savienton Mass. (2-6)

Cincironal (6-4) at Louizville (8-1)

Edward Waters (8-2) at Florida Atlantic

Cincironal (8-6) at Control (8-7)

Edward Waters (8-2) at Florida Atlantic

New Hampshire (9-2) at Georgia Southern (9-2)

New Hampshire (9-2) at Georgia Southern 92-92

"Missouri (4-6) at Iowa St. (6-7) at Sulfindis (10-1) E. Wäshington (6-7) at S. Illinoids (10-1) E. Wäshington (6-7) at T. Grott (10-7) at Sam Houston St. (9-2) Talliane (6-7) at T. Grott (10-7) at Sam Houston St. (9-2) at Sam Houston St. (7-2) at Texas Tech (6-4) Northwestern St. (7-3) at Texas Tech (6-4) Solidos (7-7) at Sam Houston St. (7-8) Solidos St. (10-6) at Southern Call (10-6) North Dame (6-4) at Southern Call (10-6) Northwestern St. (7-3) at Houst (10-5) at Houston St. (10-6) at

Division I-AA playoffs

First Round
Sturday, Mor IZT
Jacksonvilles Sturday, Mor IZT
Jacksonvilles Sturday, Mor IZT
Hampton (9-1) at William & Marry (9-2)
James Madison (9-2) at Lehigh (9-2)
Western Kentucky (9-2) at Sam Houston
Houston
Extensive State (8-3) at Montana (9-2)
E. Washington (6-3) at 50. Illinois (10-1)
Laffayette (8-3) at Delaware (9-3)
Mew Hampshire (9-2) at Ga. Southern (9-2)

Division II playoffs

Quarterfinals
Saturday, Nov. 27
West Chester (10-3) at E. Stroudsburg (10-1)
Northwest Missouri State (11-1) at Pitts-burg State (12-01), at Albany State, Ga. (11-0)
Valdosta St. (10-1), at Albany State, Ga. (11-0)
Grand Valley St. (10-2) at North Dakota (10-2)

Division III playoffs

Second Round Saturday, Nov. 27 Hobart, N.Y. (9-1) at Rowan, N.J. (8-2) St. John Fisher, N.Y. (10-1) at Delaware Val-ley (11-0) Christopher Novement

/ (11-0) Christopher Newport, Va. (9-2) at Washing-n & Jefferson, Pa. (11-0) Wheaton, Ill. (10-1) at Mount Union, Ohio

arthage, Wis. (10-1) at Wooster, Ohio idental, Calif. (9-1) at Concordia-Moor

.1-0) Hardin-Raylor (10-1) at Hardin-Sim-Mary Han ns (10-0) mons (10-0) Wisconsin-La Crosse (7-3) at Linfield, Ore. (9-0)

NAIA playoffs

Quarterfinals Saturday, Nov. 27 Hastings (9-2) at St. Francis, Ind. (11-0) MidAmerica Nazarene (9-2) at Geor MidAmerica Nazarene (9-2) at George-own, Ky. (11-0) Carroll, Mont. (8-2) at Dickinson State (9-1) Sioux Falls (11-0) at Azusa Pacific (10-2)

Division I-A team statistics Total offense

	Plays		Yds P
Louisville	686	4891	543.4
Boise St.	806	5070	507.0
Utah	801	5530	502.7
Bowling Green	723	4964	496.4
California	687	4896	489.6
Texas Tech	784	4867	486.7
Toledo	748	4735	473.5
Texas	737	4724	472.4
Oklahoma	817	5137	467.0
Memphis	765	4640	
Purdue	837	5011	455.5
Texas A&M	693	4545	454.5
Michigan St.	817	4922	447.5
Minnesota	756	4909	446.3
Northern Illinois	787	4906	446.0
Virginia	707	4360	
Southern California	726	4348	434.8

Ruching offense

Rice Texas Navy Air Force West Virginia Minnesota California Cklahoma St. Virginia Utah Northern III.	Car 629 508 577 648 494 500 426 520 468 494 506	Yds 3115 3052 2900 3051 2583 2806 2537 2519 2466 2694 2645	290.0 277.4 258.3 255.1 253.7 251.9 246.6 244.9 240.5
West Virginia Minnesota California Oklahoma St. Virginia Utah Northern III. Boise St. Michigan St. Louisville Fresno St. Oklahoma	494 500 426 520 468 494 506 509 451 408 416 479	2583 2806 2537 2519 2466 2694 2645 2383 2594 2103 2195 2345	258.3 255.1 253.7 251.9 246.6 244.9 240.5 238.3 235.8 233.7 219.5 213.2
Wake Forest	481	2118	211.8

Passing offense					
Middle Tenn. St.	383 237 423 234 368 224 297 187	3995 3277 3573 3176 2788 3087 3050 3348 3024 2873 3091 3075 2991 2687 2945	304.4 302.4 287.3 281.0 279.5 271.9 268.7		

Total defense				
iorth Carolina St. Ilabama SU outhern California Juburn Iriginia Tech Iorida St. Visconsin owa enn St. alifornia Iriginia Iissouri Klahoma	Plays 635 641 619 649 676 622 721 678 745 753 652 607 626 705	Yds 2295 2595 2502 2664 2937 2696 2977 3035 3180 3207 2927 2956 2966 3316	275.9 289.0 291.5 292.7 295.6 296.6 301.4	
ent St. Jeorgia	683 608	3028 3043		
roy	782	3373	306.6	

Rushing defense						
Florida St. Southern California Boise St. California Boise St. California Troy New Mexica Oklahoma Auburn Auburn Miami (Ohio) Virginia Virginia Marshall Marshall Morth Carolina St.	Car 371 299 296 323 356 405 342 358 367 353 365 375 333 350 392 391	759 692 848 890	Yds Pg 69.0 69.2 84.8 89.0 90.7 93.6 94.6 95.5 95.5 100.6 101.8 105.4 105.8 109.6			

Passing defense					
Alabama North Carolina St. Virginia Tech Fresno St. Southern California Oregon St. Wisconsiin Existication Troy UTEP Clemson Missouri Missouri Missouri Mismi (Fla.) Texas Tech South Carolina	Att Cp. Vds TDs Pts 29 100 1282 9 94.93 244 108 1199 12 96.03 27 11 45 1547 6 96.22 23 60 155 1786 7 96.77 187 187 187 187 187 187 187 187 187 1				

Div. I-A individual statistics Rushing

	Car	Yds	Ava	Yds Pa
Thomas, No.Texas		1709	6.7	
Benson, Texas		1599	5.9	159.9
Arrington, Cal		1584	6.8	158.4
Wolfe, No.Illinois		1572	6.5	157.2
Williams, Memphis		1565	5.9	156.5
Moats, La.Tech		1706	6.3	155.1
Peterson, Oklahoma		1671	5.8	151.9
Morency, Okla. St.		1346	5.9	149.6
Hall, South Florida		1138	6.7	126.4
Hart, Michigan		1372	5.3	124.7
Sproles, Kansas St.	244	1318	5.4	119.8
lerron, Northwestern	247	1291	5.2	117.4
lones, Army		1171	6.2	117.1
Seymour, C. Michigan		1284	4.9	116.7
Dorsey, UNLV		1260	5.6	114.5
Maroney, Minnesota		1243	6.6	113.0
Moore, New Mexico	227	1083	4.8	108.3

Passing					
	Att Cp	Yds TDs Rtg			
LeFors, Louisville	193 144	2077 16 190.3			
Smith, Utah	280 185	2624 28 174.9			
Jacobs, Bowl, Green	358 247	3222 32 172.4			
Campbell, Auburn	219 150	2137 16 170.0			
Rodgers, Cal	246 170	2097 21 164.0			
Gradkowski, Toledo	324 232	2886 20 163.7			
White, Oklahoma	325 209	2707 30 162.3			
Marshall, W.Virginia	193 119	1610 18 156.3			
Orton, Purdue	342 213	2809 28 155.4			
DGreene, Geogria	249 150	2164 17 154.2			
Hackney, UAB	274 155	2447 22 153.7			
Ricard, Tulane	231 143	1881 21 152.5			
Leinart, USC	309 203	2348 23 150.9			
Leak, Florida	360 219	2935 28 149.4			
Zabransky, Boise St.	273 175	2484 12 148.4			
Pierce, N.MexicoSt.	285 191	2253 16 148.4			
Guiduali Cincinnati	305 186	2402 24 148.0			

Receiving

	Gms	Ct	Yds	Ct Pa
idgeway, Ball State	11	105	1399	9.5
ernal-Wood, Idaho	12		938	8.0
dwards, Michigan	11		1221	7.9
eslaurie. E.Michigan	11	84	1257	7.6
lowers, Nevada	11	83	1052	7.5
tubblfield, Purdue	11	82	1014	7.5
loses, Rutgers	10	74	888	7.4
Davis, Marshall	11	81	847	7.4
lass, Oregon State	11	81	1274	7.4
wens, Hawaii	10	72	738	7.2
Moore, Toledo	10	70	870	7.0
lover, Texas Tech	8	56	595	7.0
Vright, Middle Tenn.	11	76	1048	6.9
ennings, W.Michigan	11	74	1092	6.7
lagan, Arizona State	10	67	956	6.7
Vebb. San Diego St.	11	71	863	6.5
ussell. Louisville	9	56	758	6.2



Texas quarterback Vince Young (left) tries to elude Oklahoma safety Donte Nicholson during the Sooners' 12-0 victory on Oct. 9. The Longhorns, who play rival Texas A&M, are seeking their first BCS bowl bid.

BCS race focuses on Texas

Longhorns hold key to Cal's. Boise State's bowl hopes

Boise State coach Dan Hawkins, whose team

be rooting for Texas A&M to beat Texas. The

Longhorns are ranked fifth in the BCS. Teams

is ranked seventh in the BCS standings, will

BY RALPH D. RUSSO The Associated Press

The Lone Star State's top rivalry will be drawing plenty of interest in Boise, Idaho, and Berkeley, Calif No. 6 Texas hosts No. 22 Texas A&M on Friday with the Bowl Championship Series hopes of Boise



State and California on the line Boise State is seventh in the BCS standings this week. If the Broncos (10-0) can move up one

spot, they'll guarantee themselves a place in one of the four BCS games. Boise State plays Nevada on Saturday but what happens in Reno is only part of the equation for the Broncos. Texas is fifth in the BCS standings and if the Long-

horns win the chances of the Broncos cracking the top six in the final BCS standings go way down. "There's one more game, and hopefully there's

two more, and we know the importance of that," Broncos coach Dan Hawkins said, "When all of the dust settles, then we'll sit back and say 'Hey, nice season' but until that time we've got work to do."

The Longhorns again are on their way to being the odd team out of the BCS. Utah is virtually locked into the top six, securing one of the two BCS at-large bids for the Utes (11-0).

California is fourth in the BCS standings and in position to grab the other at-large bid. The Rose Bowl wants desperately to have Cal play Michigan, assuming No. 1 USC is in the Orange Rowl

But Cal's position is tenuous, too. The Golden Bears play on Dec. 4 at Southern Mississippi, a game resched-

uled because of a hurricane in September.

Cal's first concern is beating the Golden Eagles. But they also have to keep an eye on Texas and Boise State.

It's probably best for Cal if Texas wins on Friday and blocks Boise State. If Boise State is in the top six. Cal would get bumped regardless of where the Bears finish.

But here's the catch for the Bears: They're .0203 ahead of Texas, which curiously gained substantial ground on Cal in the coaches poll after struggling to beat Kansas two weeks ago and not playing last week. Cal's BCS lead is solid but probably not insurmountable. And if Texas passes Cal in the BCS standings, the Bears are out.

So Cal needs the Longhorns to win, just not too impressively.

"It's something we need to keep an eye on now," Cal coach Jeff Tedford said. "That being said, the only thing we can control is how we prepare to play against Southern Miss." The picks: Friday

No. 22 Texas A&M (plus 11) at No. 6 Texas: Long horns going for five straight in series ... TEXAS

No. 14 LSU (minus 4) at Arkansas: Home teams have won past six in series ... ARKANSAS 19-16. No. 18 Arizona State (minus 14) at Arizona: NCAA calls Territorial Cup oldest rivalry trophy in

44-24.

college football ... ARIZONA STATE 38-16.

Saturday Notre Dame (plus 23) at No. 1 Southern Cal: Trojans

have won past two by combined 89-27 ... USC 28-17. Cincinnati (plus 171/2) at No. 7 Louisville: Tough for Bearcats to keep up if injured QB Gino Guidugli doesn't play ... LOUISVILLE

Georgia Tech (plus 151/2) at No. 8 Georgia: Bulldogs have won three straight in series, scoring 116 points ...

GEORGIA 34-14. No. 10 Boise State (minus 25) at Nevada: Broncos' win-

ning streak ends at 21 ... NE-VADA 48-40. No. 16 Virginia (plus 4) at

from non-BCS conferences that finish the No. 11 Virginia Tech: Hokies end Cavs' slim ACC title season in the top six in the BCS standings VIRGINIA TECH automatically get a bid to a BCS bowl game. 20-17. Kentucky (plus 231/2) at No. 15 Tennessee: Any

arterback will do for the Vols ... TENNESSEE

Syracuse (plus 111/2) at No. 17 Boston College: BC locks up BCS bid ... BOSTON COLLEGE 24-17. No. 23 Oklahoma State (plus 5) at Texas Tech: Sonny Cumbie is latest Texas Tech QB to lead nation in yards passing ... TEXAS TECH 34-31.

No. 24 UTEP (minus 8½) at Tulsa: Miners going for first nine-win season since 1988 ... UTEP 30-19. Last week: 16-1 (straight); 14-3 (vs. points).

Season: 181-45 (straight); 118-95-5 (vs. points).

James has 43 points

If LeBron James was sending a post-Olympics message to Larry Brown, he wouldn't admit it.

Perhaps trying to prove Brown was wrong to bench him in Greece, James scored a career-high 43 points to lead the Cleveland Cavaliers to a 92-76 victory over the Detroit Pistons on Wednesday night.

"I just go out and play my



game. That's over," James said. "I don't need motivation from that to play." During the

Olympics, Brown sat James, who had never spent so much time on the bench and didn't enjoy being a cheerleader. James averaged just 5.4 points in 11.4 minutes in eight games as the U.S. team settled for a bronze medal.

"He didn't say anything to us, but I think he wanted to stick it to him," Cavs guard Jeff McInnis said. "I think in the back of his mind that's what he wanted to do '

James gave Brown a thank you card before the game for sending a baby gift following the birth of his son. Not much later, James sent another message to Detroit's coach by scoring 14 points in the first quarter.
"I'd say he's a better player,"

Brown said. "I was proud of him. He took one bad shot. It's as good a performance as I've seen.

The NBA's reigning rookie of the year scored 21 points in the first half and 12 in the third quarter when he assisted on Cleveland's two other field goals. In the fourth, after Detroit pulled within 10, James made consecutive three-pointers before being taken out with 2:03 left to a rousing ova-tion and the Cavaliers up 87-71.

Richard Hamilton scored 28 points for Detroit.

Bulls 101. Jazz 99: At Salt Lake City, rookie Ben Gordon scored 22 points, including four free throws in the final minute, to help Chicago avoid an 0-10 record that would have been the worst in franchise history. Gordon also drew a charging

foul on Matt Harpring in the closing minutes to help the Bulls become the final NBA team to win its first game.

Eddy Curry lost his starting spot but had 21 points before foul ing out. Andrei Kirilenko scored 20 points to lead the Jazz.

Spurs 94. Mavericks 80: Tim Duncan scored 27 points and the Spurs held Dallas to 3-for-17 shooting in the fourth quarter to win their 18th straight regular-season home game.

Dirk Nowitzki, listed as doubtful after spraining his left ankle Sunday in Denver, had 23 points and 11 rebounds in 35 minutes.

76ers 110, Celtics 97: At Philadelphia, Allen Iverson had 28 points and 10 assists and Josh Davis moved into the starting lineup and added a season-high 19 points to help the 76ers snap a three-game losing streak.



Bulls guard Ben Gordon scored 22 points and made some clutch plays in the fourth quarter to help Chicago earn its first victory

Davis, the CBA's most valuable player last season with the Idaho Stampede, started ahead of veteran Kenny Thomas and logged 26 minutes. He scored 11 straight Philadelphia points in the third quarter, including consecutive

Raptors 114, Knicks 91: Vince Carter scored 22 points and backup point guard Milt Palacio had a season-high 18 points and seven assists for the Raptors at

Trail Blazers 89, Magic 83: At Orlando, Fla., Zach Randolph scored 20 of his 27 points after halftime and Damon Stoudamire had 16 points and eight assists.

Randolph twice hit tie-breaking baskets in the final three minutes and his free throws with 34 seconds remaining put the game

Heat 99. Hawks 93: Dwvane Wade had 31 points and 11 assists and had the most spectacular defensive play of the night in Atlanta He just missed the first triple-double of his career, also pulling down eight rebounds.

Shaquille O'Neal and Udonis Haslem each had 21 points for Miami, which went ahead to stay when O'Neal dunked off a pass from Wade with 5:51 remaining.

SuperSonics 93. Grizzlies 84: Rashard Lewis had 27 points and 11 rebounds and Ray Allen added 20 points despite a poor shooting night in Memphis.

Seattle, which shot poorly and never led in the first half, started connecting in the third period. The Sonics were 14-for-22, including 3-for-4 from three-point range, to build a 14-point lead.

Suns 111, Bucks 104: In Phoenix, Shawn Marion had 23 points and 12 rebounds and Steve Nash had 22 points and 12 assists, helping the Suns win their season-high sixth straight game.

In message to Brown, Fourth Pacer implicated by video

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. - Police have determined that a fourth Indiana Pacer, reserve center David Harrison, was involved in the brawl during last Friday night's Indiana-Detroit game.

Police Lt. James Manning said footage of the fight shows it was Harrison who punched John Ackerman, 67, in the stands. Acker-man claimed in a lawsuit filed Tuesday that it was Indiana's Jermaine O'Neal who hit him.

ESPN provided the NBA with footage from the broadcast, and the league issued a statement saying it decided not to suspend Harrison because of the circumstance es in the exit area at the time the players were attempting to leave the floor, Harrison, however, was

a punch in the stands as he and other players headed toward the locker room.

Todd Weglarz, one of the lawyers representing Ackerman, said he hadn't seen the videotape purportedly showing Harrison at tacking his client, but was considering filing a subpoena to obtain a copy. He said there were no plans to drop O'Neal as a defendant.

O'Neal was suspended for 25 games for his role in the brawl, Stephen Jackson for 30, and Ron Artest, the first to bound into the stands and begin punching fans, for the rest of the season. Police have not been able to talk to any of the Pacers. Manning said.

The fight among spectators and players broke out near the end of Friday's game after a dispute on

a drink at Artest, who then charged into the stands and began beating a man he thought

had done it. The man attacked by Artest, Mike Ryan, of Clarkston, has re-tained a lawyer, but has not decid-ed yet whether to sue. Others hurt in the fight have filed suits against the Pacers, individual

players and The Palace. "Artest attacked him and wrong-fully so," Ryan's lawyer, Todd Flood, said Wednesday. "My cli-ent was truly an innocent victim."

Manning said Crimestoppers has offered a reward of up to \$1,000 for information on the fight and the man who threw a chair that struck several people. Pistons also have offered \$1,000 reward, team spokesman Matt Dobek said

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

	w	L	Pct	GB				
ronto	6	7	.462	_				
w York	5	6	.455	-				
ladelphia	5	6	.455	-				
ston	4	6	.400	1/2	1			
w Jersev	2	8	.200	21/2	- 8			
Southeast Division								
ami	9	4	.692	-	1			
ando	6	4	.600	11/2				
shington	6	4	.600	11/2				
arlotte	2	8	.200	51/2				
anta	2	9	.182	6	- 3			
Central Division								
liana	8	3	.727	_	61111011			
veland	7	4	.636	1	- 6			
troit	5	6	455	3				
waukee	3	7	.300	41/5				
cago	ī	9	.100	61/2				
					t			
Western Conference								
western conterence								

Western Conference								
Southwe	st Divisi	on						
	W	L	Pct	GB				
San Antonio	9	3	.750	-				
Dallas	8	5	.615	11/2				
Houston	6	7	462	31/5				
Memphis	5	7	.417	4				
New Orleans	ī	ġ	.100	7				
Northwes		on						
Seattle	11	2	.846	_				
Minnesota	- 6	4	.600	31/2				
Utah	7	- 5	.583	31/2				
Denver	6	5	.545	4				
Portland	6	5	.545	4				
Pacific	Division	1						
Phoenix	10	2	.833	_				
Sacramento	7	4	.636	21/2				
L.A. Lakers	7	5	.583	3				
L.A. Clippers	5	6	.455	41/2				
Golden State	3	8	.273	61/2				
Wednesd	lay's ga	me	5					
Cleveland 92, Detroi	t 76							
Toronto 114, New Yo	ork 91							

riouston at Utah San Antonio at Denver New Orleans at Phoenix New Jersey at Seattle Sacramento at LA. Lakers L.A. Clippers at Golden Stat Saturday's gan Toronto at New York

Raptors 114, Knicks 91

Raptors 114, Knicks 91
NEW YORK - 1750mas 2:5 0:6 4, KThomas 2:5 0:6 4, Mohammed 9:14 7:3 5; Charles 2:5 0:6 4, Mohammed 9:14 7:3 5; Charles 2:5 0:6 4, Mohammed 9:14 7:3 5; Charles 2:14 7:3 5; Charles 2:14

76ers 110, Celtics 97 BOSTON — Welsch 3-4 0-9.7, LaFrentz 3-9 1-2.7, Blount 4-10-0-0 8, Psytton 1-4 0-0 2, 1-2.7, Blount 4-10-0-0 8, Psytton 1-4 0-0 2, 1-2.7, Blount 4-10-0-0 8, Psytton 1-4 0-0 2, 1-2.7, 1-2.7, 1-2.7, Psytton 0-2-0-0 8, 1-2.7, 1-2.7, 1-2.7, Psytton 0-2-0-0 8, 1-2.7,

39-78 12-28 110.

18 34 21 24—97

Philadelphia

Coals—Box 56 30 88—10.

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Philadelphia

Coals—Box 56 30 88—10.

Philadelphia

La Frentz 0-3, Philadelphia 8-20.

La Frentz 0-3, Philadelphia 8-20.

La Tarentz 0-3, Philadelphia 8-20.

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La Tarentz 0-3, Philadelphia 24.

(Nerson 0.0), Total fouls—Boxton 25, Philadelphia 24.

(Nerson 10), Total fouls—Boxton 25, Philadelphia 24.

(Nerson 10), Total fouls—Boxton 25, Philadelphia 24.

Cavaliers 92. Pistons 76

Lavailler's 72., 1°15.008 / O DETROIT - Prince 27.00 4, McDyess 3-10 1-1°7, RWallace 4-15 2-2 11. Billups 2-6 2-7, 1-1°7, RWallace 4-15 2-2 11. Billups 2-6 2-7, 1-1°7, 1

33-71 22-27 92.

Detroit
Cheveland College Col

Trail Blazers 89, Magic 83

ITall Diazers 0-7, magic 0-5
PORTLAND - Abdur-Rahim e12-0-12, Randolph 10-23 7-9 27, Ratifff 1-4 0-02, Anderson 2-9 4-4, 9, Stoudamie 7-16-0-16, Miles 4-13-2-10, Van Exel 3-8-0-6, Patterson 3-6 1-27, ORLANDO - Hill 5-111-11, Howard 4-5-4-11, Cato 3-7 1-4 7, Stevenson 3-6-0-6, Francis 5-18 1-11, Turkoglu 10-22-4 27, Battle 1-4-0-2, Nelson 3-7-0-6, Garrity 1-4-0-2. To-13-35-85-14-83.

Orlando
Triree-Point
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Triree-Point
Stoudamine 2-5, Anderson 1-2, Van 18-12-8
Stoudamine 2-5, Foulds out—None, Rebouds—
S-Portland 54 (Abdur-Rahim 14), Orlando 19-6
(Cato 11), Assists—Portland 17 (Stoudamine 8), Orlando 23 (Hill 8), Total fouls—Portland
13, Orlando 17, A—13,488 (TZ-48).

Heat 99, Hawks 93

MIAMI - Ra.Butler 0-60-20, Haslem 8-12-5-6 21, O'Neal 8-10-5-21, Wade 12-17-78-31, E-Jones 0-61-11, S.Anderson 1-33-4-6, Dones o-3-8-0-9, Dolean 1-4-6-0-2, Laethers 3-6-2-8, 0-9-20, December 1-4-6-0-2, Laethers 3-6-2-8, 0-4-10, Childres 1-7-4-6, Barry 2-4-0-5, ATLANTA - Harrington 3-12-5-8, Walker 9-21-0-0-22, Collier 8-14-4-5-20, KAnderson 3-8-3-4-10, Childres 1-7-4-6, Barry 2-4-0-5, McCoy 2-31-2-5, Delk 3-12-6-6-13, J.Smith 1-2 2-2-4, Totals 3-28-22-28-33, May 12-8-28-28-28-31

Sonics 93, Grizzlies 84

Sonice 93, Grizziles 84

SATTE - 1993, Grizziles 84

27, James 34, 64, Lewis 11, 22, 64

27, James 34, 65, Ridnour 41, 64, 51, 84, 164

21, James 34, 66, Ridnour 41, 64, 51, 84, 164

151, 112, Radiamour 22, 96, 40, finished states 11, 112, 22, 164

Wilkes 69, 69, 60, Cleaves 69, 69, 60, 164

Milkes 69, 69, 60, Cleaves 69, 69, 60, 164

Milkes 69, 60, 60, 164

Milkes 69, 60, 60, 164

Milkes 69, 60, 164

Milkes 70, 164

Milkes 70

Spurs 94, Mavericks 80

Bulls 101, Jazz 99

CHICAGO — Nocioni 2-5 2-3 6, Deng 4-10 3-3 11, Davis 2-3 5-5 9, Hinrich 3-11 10-12 17, Duhon 3-6 1-1 8, Gordon 7-15 4-4 22, Griffin 0-10-0 0, Curry 8-13 5-6 21, Chandler 1-4 5-6 7. Totals 30-68 35-40 101.

0-10-06, Curry 6-13-5-6-21, Crianofer 1-4-5-6-7.

1-46-18, Curry 6-13-6-21, Curry 6-17-4-6-8.

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Suns 111, Bucks 104

Suns 111, Bucks 104

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PHOBUX — Richardson 7-14 420, Marion

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Rejuvenated Heels win Maui Invitational

LAHAINA, Hawaii - Raymond Felton did everything to get North Carolina another Maui Invi tational championship.

The junior point guard ran the offense as he always does, defended the opponent's best backcourt player as he always does and even threw in a couple of highlight-tane moves in the 11th-ranked Tar Heels' 106-92 victory over Iowa on Wednesday night

Oh, and he did it all one day after his hurting his left wrist.

"I was in pain the whole time, but I just forgot about it," Felton "I love my teammates to said. death, the coaching staff, Coach Williams. I'll always give them 100 percent.

It was the fourth Maui Invitational title game in as many ap pearances for the Tar Heels (3-1) and they headed back to the mainland with a second championship trophy. And even though Rashad McCants had 22 points, Felton was the main reason, so he was selected the tournament MVP

His stats weren't overly impressive - 13 points, nine assists, five



rebounds and four steals - but it was the defensive job he did on Iowa's Jeff Horner that set the tone for the Tar Heels

"We talked about how Horner is the key to their whole team because he shoots with such range he spreads your defense," Tar Heels coach Roy Williams said. "Whoever is guarding him has to keep him in front of them but be close enough to do something. Raymond is our best on the ball defender and his play was important to us on both ends of the court. He established the tempo on the offensive end and he's difficult to dribble penetrate against

on the defensive end." Horner averaged 22.5 points in the first two games for the Hawkeyes (3-1), shooting 22-for-40 from the field. Felton, playing with a bandage on his left wrist, just wouldn't let Horner get the ball where he wanted it.

Horner took just four shots in the first half and made two, and

took a 59-40 lead. The Tar Heels shot 58 percent in the first half, closing the opening 20 minutes by making 11 of their last 14 shots.

No. 1 Wake Forest 79, Providence 67: At New York, Justin Gray needed six stitches in his right eyebrow after taking an elbow to the face, but came back and finished with 21 points for Wake Forest in the semifinals of the Preseason NIT at Madison Square Garden.

The Demon Deacons (4-0) survived some hot shooting by Providence's Ryan Gomes to advance to the championship game Friday night against Arizona

Gomes led Providence (3-1) with 24 points and Dwight Brewington added 23.

No. 5 Illinois 85, Oakland, Mich. 54: At Champaign, Ill., Luther Head scored Illinois' first seven points and finished with 22 to lead the Illini (3-0)

Deron Williams added 17 points and had nine assists for Illinois (3-0)

No. 12 Louisville 82, Stanford 67: At Lahaina, Hawaii, Taquan Dean scored 30 points and Louisfifth-place game of the Maui Invi-

Rob Little had 19 points for Stanford (2-2).

No. 15 Texas 95, Tennessee 70: At Lahaina, Hawaii, freshman guard Daniel Gibson scored 19 points, leading the Longhorns (3-1) over Tennessee (1-2) in the third-place game of the Maui Invi-

No. 18 Arizona 61, Michigan 60 (OT): At New York, Hall of Fame coach Lute Olson pushed his Madison Square Garden winning streak to 11 games with Arizona's victory.

In the extra period, Chris Hunter gave Michigan the lead, but Arizona (3-1) battled back, tying it on two free throws by Channing Frye and then moving ahead on a foul shot by Mustafa Shakur and a basket by Jawann McClellan.

Michigan (3-1) got into it again on free throws by Dion Harris. Daniel Horton and Hunter. The Wolverines had the ball and a chance to win, but Horton's shot

No. 16 Pittsburgh 83, Robert Morris 59: At Pittsburgh, Chris

16-0 run during the final six minutes of the first half to help Pittsburgh (2-0) beat city rival Robert

Morris (1-3) Taft finished with 21 points and nine rehounds and point guard Carl Krauser had 18 points. Pittsburgh won its 42nd in a row at home against non-conference opponents and improved to 24-0 against Robert Morris

No. 19 Alahama 90, Alaska-Anchorage 55: At Anchorage, Alaska, Jermareo Davidson scored 15 of his 17 points in the first half, leading Alabama (3-0) to a rout of Division II Alaska-Anchorage (1-2) in the first round of the Great Alaska Shootout.

Davidson added 13 rebounds for Alabama and Earnest Shelton had 18 points.

No. 24 Gonzaga 88, Idaho 74: At Spokane, Wash., senior Ronny Turiaf scored a career-high 40 points and grabbed 11 rebounds. leading Gonzaga (3-0) past Idaho

Turiaf became the first Gonzaga player since Jim McPhee in 1990 to score 40 in a game. Dandrick Jones led Idaho with 23 points

Fight over suspensions could affect labor deal

44 This is a

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Robert Lanza

Lahor attorney

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN The Associated Press

NEW YORK — One of the byproducts of last weekend's NBA brawl could be a poisoned atmosphere in collective bargaining

At a time when they should be negotiating a new labor agreement, lawyers for the NBA and the players' union are about to fight a side battle - an appeal of the lengthy suspensions given to Ron Artest, Stephen Jackson and Jer-

maine O'Neal — that could exacerbate an already contentious relationship

Just six years ago, the league and union went through a lengthy lockout that forced cancellation of nearly half of the 1998-99

That was a low point, and nearly all the principle players from that battle starting with NBA commissioner David Stern and union director Billy Hunter and including most of the staff lawvers - still hold the same jobs.

"This is a relationship that's dysfunctional at best. The well is already so poisoned, it would be difficult to poison it even more," said Robert Lanza, a labor lawyer who was the lead in-house counsel for the Players Asso-

ciation during the 1998-99 lockout. "A lot of issues that should be dealt with as a team are not dealt with that way.

The union's lawyers asked Tuesday that an arbitrator review the suspensions Stern

handed out to Artest (the rest of the sea son), Jackson (30 games) and O'Neal (25 games) for brawling with fans at Friday night's Pacers-Dteroit Pistons game.

Sole discretion in deciding punishment for behavior on the court rests with the commissioner, who also is the only avenue

The union wants to maneuver around that rule, which is in the collective bargaining agreement, by trying to send the case

to an arbitrator, Roger Kaplan, who was relieved of his duties two months ago when the owners declined to renew his term.

The league and the union have not agreed on a replacement for Kaplan, the emergency grievance arbitrator until his successor is named.

"I don't know what involvement, if any, I'll have with his case," Kaplan said Wednesday, declining further comment.

If recent history provides a guide, Kaplan could be the emergency arbitrator for quite some time. The post of systems arbitrator, to resolve salary can-related disputes, has been vacant since Kenneth Dam left in 2001, because the sides haven't agreed on

a replacement. Preliminary collective bargaining nego tiations have been described as cordial. Each side has already defined its major areas of concern, but wide gaps remain on many of the major core issues

Neither side wants a repeat of the battle



The Indiana Pacers' Ron Artest is restrained by teammate Austin Croshere on Nov. 19 following a brawl in Auburn Hills, Mich. Lawyers who should be negotiating the NBA's new labor agreement could be tied up fighting the suspensions of Artest and his teammates.

waged six years ago, but there is a growing concern among players that another lockout could be coming

"I feel it's inevitable," Toronto's Jalen Rose said earlier this season.

Absent some sort of conciliatory gesture from Stern, the relationship between the league and union in the weeks and months ahead figures to remain adversarial at

People close to Stern and Hunter say there is some uneasiness between the two men, and the union's decision to fight the suspensions doesn't figure to strengthen the relationship. Neither side entirely trusts the other, and no gestures of compromise were made as the unprecedented events of the past week unfolded.

"We can still do both. We can litigate the suspensions and negotiate the CBA. One issue should not impact the other." Hunter

Stern, through a spokesman, declined comment

SPORTS



James sends post-Olympic message to Brown with 43 points vs. Pistons. Page 30



Mickelson matches record in a PGA Tour exhibition

BY JAYMES SONG The Associated Press

POIPU BEACH, Hawaii -Phil Mickelson turned his oppo-nents into fans in the PGA Grand Slam of Golf.

And ran away from them, too, with a freewheeling 13-under 59. "It was incredible," top-ranked Vijay Singh said. "After about the 12th or 15th hole, we were just

watching him." Coming off a two-week break from golf, Mickelson capped his breakthrough season five-stroke victory and \$400,000 payday Wednesday in the two-day exhibition event for the

four major winners. "When I force it at the majors or at other tournaments, I'm not going to get the best score," the Masters champion said. "When I kind of freewheel it, let my game just kind of take care of itself, the ball seems to find the hole."

Lefty had an eagle and 11 bird-ies in his bogey-free final round, and putted just 24 times - 11 en route to a tournament-record 28 on the front nine. He finished at 17-under 127 to match the tourna ment record on the oceanside Poipu Bay course.

"It was certainly unexpected," he said. "I didn't hit it great today and somehow I shot 59. So go figure. It just all kind of came togeth-

er.
"I just went out and just kind of played and today, the ball went in the hole. I don't really have an explanation for it.

Mickelson even had a chance for a 58, but barely missed a 9-foot eagle putt on the final hole. He tapped in for a birdie and smiled as the gallery cheered wildly.

"To me, there's not much difference between a 58 and 59" he

said. "There's a huge difference between 59 and 60. So the last putt, I didn't really feel that much pressure because I really didn't have to make it. I just wanted to make sure I two-putted."

Mickelson's score will not count in the PGA Tour's records because the Grand Slam is not an official tournament. Al Geiberg er, Chip Beck and David Duval er, Chip Beck and David Duval are the only players to shoot 59 in official PGA Tour events, Annika Sorenstam did it on the LPGA Tour, and Shigeki Maruyama had a 58 in qualifying for the 2000 U.S. Open.

Singh, a nine-time winner on the PGA Tour this year, shot 66 to finish second. U.S. Open winner Retief Goosen closed with a 68 for an 11-under total, and British Open champion Todd Hamil-

ton was last at 1-over after a 75. "Phil's round was pretty spec-tacular," Hamilton said. "I don't think I've ever seen a guy hole so many putts."

Mickelson's previous comp tive career low was 61 in the 2001 Greater Hartford Open. His season low was 63 in the Bob Hope

Chrysler Classic. In balmy and calm conditions Wednesday, Mickelson struggled off the tee — finding the rough, sand and gallery — but he com-

pensated with masterful putting. "I didn't really feel sharp off the tee," he said. "When I got on

the green, boy, I was just able to see the line and get the ball to go in, which in all honestly has never happened to me on Bermuda greens." The first-time major champion

can't wait to return to Kauai.
"That's the goal," he said. "We
all want to get back here because it means we've won a major. That's what we're all shooting for

Phil Mickelson celebrates a birdie putt on the 16th green during the final round of the PGA Grand Slam of Golf in Poipu Beach, Hawaii, on Wednesday. Mickelson shot 59, matching the low score in competitive golf, but the score will not count in the PGA Tour's records because the tournament is not an official event.

No. 11 Tar Heels take Maui Classic title with win over Iowa

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Texas plays kev role in who earns final bid to BCS game Page 29



Former OSU players back up Clarett's allegations

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